Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-185
Wednesday
23 September 1992

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FBIS-SOV-92-185 *23 September 1992*

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Russian Defense Minister Confesses to Heart Trouble

Rumors that Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has been ill first surfaced when INTERFAX reported that an official visit to the United States, scheduled for 27 September to 4 October, might "be rescheduled due to his influenza." But Grachev himself revealed that he was having heart trouble, according to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Summoning reporters to "a military hospital in Sokolniki" for a briefing on the success of the Armenia-Azerbaijan cease-fire talks, Grachev related that he and the other defense ministers then "worked on Abkhazia for the rest of the night, and perhaps that is why I had a problem with the old ticker [serdechko i prikhvatilo]."

Russia Proposes Assumption of Total CIS Debt Responsibility

Russian Foreign Economics Minister Aven has suggested that Russia assume sole responsibility for the former USSR's external debt. Speaking in a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA interview, Aven affirmed that although there currently is in place a "mechanism of unified responsibility for the USSR's foreign debt," "almost 100 percent of what is being paid is definitely Russian money." As a result, Aven proposes that "Russia alone...represent the whole debt to the outside world.... And then we ourselves will conclude agreements between the former republics which will determine future mutual relations in this sphere."

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Outlines Russia's New International Role

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev, speaking at the opening of the UN General Assembly's 47th session, proclaimed his country's goal of "acting in support of the UN efforts to achieve the twin goals of democratizing societies and renovating international relations," reports ITAR-TASS. He confirmed that "Russia is prepared to practically support the proposals which were put forward yesterday by U.S. President G. Bush." Commenting on armed conflicts within the CIS, Kozyrev said that Russia "will build up the efforts to untangle knots of contradictions on the territory of the former USSR that we have inherited, with the understanding of Russia's special interest and responsibility for establishing civilized principles of the United Nations and the CSCE in that part of the world." He also reiterated Russia's obligations concerning the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, stating "Russia favors monitoring [kontrol], including through the United Nations, international weapons delivery systems, first of all of offensive weapons, and also the most destructive ones. A particularly tough approach is needed toward regimes which flout the norms of international law."

Supreme Soviet Postpones No Confidence Vote; Gaydar Determined to Stay On

Supreme Soviet deputies today backed Deputy Vladimir Ispravnikov's initiative "not to pass any judgement on the government's activity before the adoption of the laws on the Council of Ministers and on civil service and of the programs for privatization and broadening the economic reform," with 130 votes for, 30 against, and 28 abstentions, reports INTERFAX. Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said that the call for a vote of confidence in the government made earlier was a "strategic mistake," and he urged deputies "to renounce the idea of holding an emergency congress and discussing the extraordinary powers issue" and to "bring the country back to a normal mode of work."

In reaction, Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said he was "absolutely satisfied" with the parliament's decision. Gaydar also stated that he has "no intention of resigning" his post in response to calls from some opposition groups, according to a Russian TV report.

Strategic Missile Forces Play Stabilizing Role

LD2209223392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2155 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep—The threat of a world nuclear missile war and large-scale military conflict have today been virtually reduced to a minimum, Colonel General Igor Sergeyev, commander in chief of the strategic missile forces, stated. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with him today.

At the same time, he said, one must not forget that the danger of war has not ceased to be a reality. "Consequently, the role of the strategic missile forces, which possess the means for ensuring global stability, remains the same as it was," he stressed. When asked by the newspaper's correspondent where the missiles were now targeted, Igor Sergeyev stated that "the question of selection of targets is a matter for big-time politics. It is obvious that the retargeting of missiles cannot be a unilateral act if we are speaking about collective security."

When asked by the correspondent whether there have been any instances of the theft of nuclear munitions in the strategic missile forces, Igor Sergeyev gave assurances that there have been no such instances and said they "could not be called anything other than provocations."

Official Denies Report on Chemical Weapons

LD1809103592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Russia strictly observes the provisions of the Geneva convention and other international agreements on chemical weapons. Moreover, the Russian side has not violated by any of its actions even draft agreements in this area, nor has it infringed on its bilateral accords with the United States concerning toxic substances used for military purposes.

A statement to this effect was made to an ITAR-TASS correspondent by a high-ranking official of Russia's Defense Ministry who wished to remain anonymous. He described as an irresponsible fabrication a publication in the American newspaper THE BALTIMORE SUN on 16 September that claims, quoting sources in Moscow, that Russia has allegedly developed a new type of nerve gas, and even tested it in January this year.

Consultations Begin With U.S. on Global Defense

LD2109105392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0855 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev]

[Text] Washington September 21 TASS—Two-day Russian-U.S. consultations on "a global defence system" began in Washington on Monday [21 September], conducted by the U.S. officials and a Russian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Mamedov.

It is the first meeting of Russian and American experts after the first round of consultations, held in Moscow in July, which will work out a joint concept of "the global defence system" as part of the general strategy concerning ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destructon.

Experts believe additional measures should be taken to strengthen the existing regimes of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and means of their delivery.

A problem will undoubtfully be discussed of how to let other U.S. allies and other countries concerned join the discussion of a global defence system.

Experts are to work out the schedule of the discussions and get down to the work on a juridical basis for cooperation, including new treaties and agreements, and possible ammendments to the existing treaties.

Russia believes that the establishment of an early warning centre might be the first practical step to facilitate the discussion of potential advantages of the global defence system.

Armenia, Azerbaijan Agree to Karabakh Cease-Fire

Report on Background to Agreement

PM2309095392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 92 pp 1, 3

[Report by Andrey Chernenko and Anatoliy Stasovskiy, followed by unattributed postscript: "Ministers Met and Resolved That Guns Should Fall Silent at Midnight"]

[Text] Sochi (on board the ship Kavkaz)-Moscow—All combat operations on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan are to cease for at least 150 days on the night of 25-26 September.

Essentially five months of peace... This was agreed last Saturday [19 September] by Azerbaijani Defense Minister Rakhim Kaziyev and Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan. They did not simply reach agreement but ratified this accord with their own signatures on a document drafted in an atmosphere of doubts and the most careful and scrupulous analysis. But, and this could have been especially important, they did so under the pressure of the inhuman weariness which the peoples of those two states feel today.

The text of the agreement is published by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA today, and readers will certainly note that the signatures of the Azerbaijani and Armenian ministers are not the only ones on the text: It is also signed by Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani and by members of the Russian Federation Security Council—Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev and Security Minister Army General Viktor Barannikov.

"That is not surprising," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA was told by one expert who took part in the long and rather complex preparation of the document, "such a document requires the most serious guarantees of geopolitical order from the outset. After all, the Transcausus today is a layer cake of historical, ethnic, national, and military problems which affect both Russia and Georgia and, globally speaking, other young state formations that belonged to the USSR."

The expert asked to remain anonymous because he will be continuing his work since the process of the truce, he believes, will not be smooth and constant analysis of each preceding day of events in this fragile peace and forecasting of the events of the day to come are essential.

The drama of the situation resides in the fact that, aside from the aspirations of the peoples and the political will of their leaders, the weary, bleeding flesh of the Transcaucasus is being torn to pieces by various paramilitary groups for whom peace in this land is their political death warrant. Peace simply turns them unambiguously into mere common bandits in the eyes of both their own peoples and the world community.

But no less dramatic, as we had occasion to see for ourselves, was the actual work of preparing the document. Let us not dwell on the preliminary stages, which were concerned with analytical work by the presidents' "backroom boys." You now see on the newspaper page a dryish document couched in bureaucratic language, but each of the signatories knew full well that any imprecise alignment of words in each sentence could result in the document being blocked.

We witnessed the fact that for 24 hours, with just a two-hour break for sleep, ministers and their advisers did not get up from their desks, and that includes the round table in the wardroom of the coast guard ship Kavkaz, which for several hours served as the venue for negotiations "without outsiders." While this was going on a force four or five storm suddenly blew up and gave quite a buffeting to the coast guard ship. However, even it did not manage to bring down the temperature of the very stormy discussion of certain positions.

Why precisely was it the military, who, after succeeding in suppressing various emotions, signed the truce document? Why not the presidents? Or the leaders of the parliaments of the Transcaucasus states? We put this question in turn to all the participants in the meeting. Although our conversations were independent of one other, the war [voyennyye] ministers expressed an unambiguous standpoint: First, they are the direct representatives of the presidents and other leaders. And second, they were at pains to deny false, provocative interpretations of the position of the military, who are allegedly out of control and playing their own game of dragging out the conflicts... Moreover this "position" of theirs is closely linked by various populists with the terrorist activity of illegal armed formations operating under various nationalist and political slogans.

"You have a very real opportunity to show your will for peace and your rejection of war," Army General General Pavel Grachev observed, addressing his Transcaucas colleagues. "That of course requires both political and civic courage. In purely military parlance, you have—on the basis of our agreement—to issue an order..."

"A peace order," Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov, added.

We know that the progress of the talks has been closely followed by Presidents Boris Yeltsin, Abulfaz Elchibey, and Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Georgian Supreme Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze. The Transcaucasus has been completely exhausted by its own wars, and Russia has begun to experience pretty seriously on its own account the influence of the destabilizing processes in the region. But we appreciated that the progress of the meeting was being followed by other leaders, too—those for whom peace in this land is a political verdict. That is why we read with alarm the dispiriting information carried in the encrypted messages, telephone messages, and telexes arriving on board the Kavkaz. Fighting had resumed in a small mountain town; exchanges of fire had broken out in another. Literally a few minutes away from us by air, the tempo of the clashes in Abkhazia was feverish.

The duty service apprised Army Generals Grachev and Barannikov of this information. The Transcaucasus war ministers, keeping in constant touch with their headquarters, also sought not to show their emotion. Nevertheless the

general background of the military situation during those 24 hours was such that it seemed inconceivable that the document would be signed.

Yes, it did demand will, courage, and a sense of supreme responsibility.

"I dream of just one thing—30 minutes' rest," said one of the secretaries who had to keep making amendments to a document seemingly honed to perfection.

But even when she managed to find time for that 30-minute break, the typewriter began clattering out again in the early light of the Black Sea dawn. Behind her sat one of the security minister's aides, as one of the sides had again come up with some proposal.

The Russian Federation Security Council has already pretty well proven its political maturity by managing to produce optimum recommendations on neutralizing the conflicts in the Dniester region and in South Ossetia. Incidentally, the truce agreement was drafted this time at the same desks where the scenario for the agreement on South Ossetia was unerringly drawn up.

On this occasion, too, Security Council Member Pavel Grachev again reported to the president of Russia on the signing of this vitally important agreement. This was at almost noon 19 September. We witnessed the war ministers of the Transcaucasus exchanging the traditional diplomatic document files and shaking one another's hands.

It is claimed that a compromise is a decision that suits no one. But this claim is certainly erroneous when it concerns millions of people exhausted by fratricidal slaughter. The last five years have taught us not to be optimists when assessing events in the Transcaucasus, but we are deeply certain that if the ministers' handshake had been seen by the millions of their compatriots they would have breathed a sigh of relief and gratitude, since these represent the shoots of hope without which human nature itself is inconceivable.

...But the telexes and faxes were bringing alarming news all the while. The Transcaucasus was still unaware that peace would come to this region of conflict on the night of 25-26 September. Or, to be precise, should come if those who bear arms possess enough sense, goodness, and love for their people—everything that those who shook hands that noon did have.

Stop Press

Yesterday Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev invited journalists from a number of publications to see him. He reported that efforts to effect a rapprochement between the positions of the military departments of Armenia and Azerbaijan had been under way for a long time now. The agreement offers, in his opinion, a real chance to end the bloodshed and finally get down to settling the protracted military conflict. The minister commented on the progress of the talks that had been held and the documents drawn up during them. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA will cover this in more detail in its next issue.

Grachev Announces Cease-Fire

PM2309101792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by I. Chernyak: "Russian Defense Minister Grachev: Cease-Fire in Karabakh Will Start at Midnight on 25 September 1992"]

[Text] At 1300 yesterday, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev invited journalists from the three newspapers he "most respects" to meet with him. The venue was unusual—a military hospital in Sokolniki, where the Army general turned up following his latest trips to Novaya Zemlya and Sochi. In the lobby were some bored-looking security guards in tracksuits; Grachev himself emerged wearing a red Adidas tracksuit. He announced that on Yeltsin's instructions he had joined Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov at a meeting with Defense Ministers Sarkisyan of Armenia, Gaziyev of Azerbaijan, and Kitovani of Georgia. The meeting took place in a dacha outside Sochi between 1500 on 19 September and 0300 on 20 September.

Article 1 ("The main one, the likes of which we have not had before"—Grachev remarked) of the agreement signed at the end of the meeting says that the defense ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan pledge to order all armed formations to cease firing at midnight on 25 September.

The ministers agreed to declare a moratorium on all types of combat actions in Karabakh and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan for two months and to withdraw forces from Karabakh during that period. They asked the Governments of Russia, Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan to send observers to the cease-fire areas. Moreover, to monitor one another, the Armenians are to send observers to the Azerbaijani side, and vice versa.

If the observers deem it necessary, and Armenia and Azerbaijan agree, there is provision for the introduction of peacemaking forces.

Grachev observed that when they had signed the document Sarkisyan and Gaziyev shook hands and, perhaps for the first time, exchanged kisses.

[Chernyak] "But do you believe the agreement will succeed?"

[Grachev] "There have been many peace initiatives on Nagorno-Karabakh, it is true. But the final documents were not confirmed by facts and figures," the minister replied. "If this plan is not implemented, there is only one thing to do: send in peacemaking forces—either UN alone or joint UN-CIS; blockade Nagorno-Karabakh along its entire perimeter, using air-defense facilities, aircraft, and artillery to repel bandit attacks; and summon representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan to the Security Council in New York, where the situation will be explained to them until they grasp it.

"Both ministers are men from the Caucasus," Grachev continued. "I worked with them for a long time before all this, and they both call me brother. But if they want to

continue calling me that, they have to keep their word. Incidentally, our talks were filmed."

According to Grachev, after his talks with Ter-Petrosyan and Elchibey he realized that they were sick of fighting. The minister stressed that his prediction had come true: "Bad maintenance has meant that most of the equipment is out of action. Some 40-50 percent remains in Armenia at the moment and 20-30 percent in Azerbaijan; another two or three months and they will both be down to zero and will be approaching Russia for spare parts."

"After Sarkisyan and Gaziyev had gone, three of us remained: myself, Barannikov, and Kitovani, whom we had placed in the middle," Grachev went on. "We worked on Abkhazia for the rest of the night, and perhaps that is why I had a problem with the old ticker [serdechko i prikhvatilo]. It is a pity the commander of the Abkhazian armed forces did not come to the meeting. For some reason he is in the background all the time. Of course, Georgia bears a great deal of responsibility for that conflict: its army is not merely waging combat actions against Abkhaz formations, but there have also been many robberies and cases of hooliganism. People from the criminal world are taking advantage of the militia's failure to act... Although he resisted for a long time, Kitovani unilaterally signed an agreement to the effect that once a tripartite commission to assist the militia starts up in Sukhumi, Georgian forces will be withdrawn from there. Whereupon the Abkhaz side is supposed to disarm all armed formations and withdraw them from Georgia. Kitovani also agreed to declare Gagra and Pitsunda a nonconflict zone. For our part, we will help to clear facilities of mines and organize traffic along railroads and highways to Armenia."

[Chernyak] "Are the military not usurping the politicians' role in this case?"

[Grachev] "In the first place, all the ministers were operating with the full knowledge of their presidents. Second, there is not a single political point in either agreement. It is only a beginning. Now it is up to our Foreign Ministry, the governments' groups of experts, and, of course, the presidents."

Text of Cease-Fire Agreement

PM2209183592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 92 p 3

["Agreement Between the Republic of Azerbaijan Defense Minister and the Republic of Armenia Defense Minister," signed by Azerbaijan Defense Minister R. Kaziyev, Armenian Defense Minister V. Sarkisyan, Russian Defense Minister P. Grachev, Russian Security Minister V. Barannikov, and Georgian Defense Minister T. Kitovani in Sochi on 19 September]

[Text] The Republic of Azerbaijan defense minister and the Republic of Armenia defense minister—hereinafter called the Parties—after holding discussions with the Russian Federation defense minister, the Russian Federation security minister, and the Republic of Georgia defense minister;

seeking to establish peace along the state border between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia and in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, and also to halt bloodshed and to create the conditions for a full-scale settlement;

reaffirming their commitment to the spirit of the UN Charter and the principles of the CSCE Final Act and the Helsinki Declaration of 1992;

seeking to resolve contentious issues solely by peaceful means and negotiations;

have agreed to the following:

Article 1

Before 25 September 1992 to issue orders to all armed formations to cease military operations, and to cease fire by all kinds of armaments as of 2400 on 25 September.

To exchange by the day of the cease-fire protocols on the mechanism for the withdrawal of armed formations and the monitoring of the implementation of the Parties' accords.

Article 2

To declare a two-month moratorium on all kinds of military operations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia along the entire line of the state border and in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh and, from the moment of the cease-fire, to embark on the phased withdrawal of armed formations and all kinds of armaments to points ensuring the security of the Parties, the intention being to implement a complete withdrawal of troops during the aforementioned period.

Article 3

That the Parties and the signatories to the present agreement urge the Governments of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Belarus, Ukraine, and the Republic of Kazakhstan to send observers to the region of the cease-fire and military operations.

Article 4

After the cease-fire, to station on the state border between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia and on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh observers from the Russian Federation, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Belarus, Ukraine, and the Republic of Kazakhstan and also representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia respectively on the territory of the Contracting Party to monitor the fulfillment of the provisions of the agreement.

The Parties pledge to provide the observers and representatives with the contingent of servicemen necessary to ensure their personal safety.

Article 5

That peacemaking forces be introduced at the suggestion of the observers and with the Parties' mutual agreement in requisite cases.

Article 6

To submit proposals to the leaders of the states on the need for them to carry out consultative meetings to elaborate political decisions on settling the conflict from the start of the withdrawal of the Parties' armed formations.

Article 7

That responsibility for violation of the agreement lies with the Party that violates these accords.

That responsibility for violation of the agreement is determined by a Council of Observers formed from two representatives of each observer-country.

That the procedure for the operation of the Council of Observers be determined by the Council itself at its first sitting.

Article 8

The present agreement was drawn up in the Russian language in four copies, each of which is equally valid, and was signed in the city of Sochi on 19 September 1992.

[Signed] For the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Azerbaijan Defense Minister R. Kaziyev

For the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Armenia Defense Minister V. Sarkisyan

For the Russian Federation, Russian Federation Defense Minister P. Grachev and Russian Federation Security Minister V. Barannikov

For the Republic of Georgia, Republic of Georgia Defense Minister T. Kitovani

Khasbulatov Foresees Single CIS Citizenship

PM2209114392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Valeriy Kuklin under "Cooperation" rubric: "Parliamentarians United. Now the Presidents' Turn"]

[Text] Bishkek—At the first plenary session of the CIS countries' Interparliamentary Assembly a number of documents were signed: On social protection for citizens of the assembly's states; on the main areas where efforts should be made to coordinate legislation on economic matters; and on an interparliamentary reference and information service.

As M. Sherimkulov, chairman of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan Supreme Soviet, noted, the need to coordinate governments' activities in the economic sphere is a demand of life, since the countries that declared their independence within the framework of the former Soviet Union are characterized by what they call a single economic space and by strongly developed ties of friendship between the peoples.

At the news conference, the delegation leaders and spokesmen answered a number of questions, including particularly complex questions relating to the status of a CIS state citizen, the organization and structure of the future interparliamentary association, and also the question of how the assembly will operate during the period of interparliamentary activity and the question of Kyrgyzstan share in the Foreign Economic Bank.

R. Khasbulatov had to answer most of these questions. He continues to believe that tough citizenship laws could do a great deal of harm to millions of international families, that this question must be tackled slowly, by concluding bilateral or triangular agreements, and that then, having laid the legislative foundation, the problem must be finally resolved in the form, perhaps, of a single citizenship covering the entire territory of the CIS. He also noted that the assembly of parliaments is a new phase in history, an event that had no equivalent in prerevolutionary Russia, and certainly not in the Soviet land, since it enables the CIS countries to unite on the basis of mutual economic interest, get away from executive power dictatorship, and arrive at an awareness of the need for representative power. In short, the Interparliamentary Assembly is not a legislative body at all, but a coordinating body.

A. Saakyan, first deputy chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, assured the meeting that his republic's Supreme Soviet would approve the assembly's documents, whereupon Armenian citizens would also be recommended for its working bodies. V. Kasymov, an observer for Azerbaijan at the assembly session, noted that although the question of joining the CIS had not yet been considered in his republic he now hoped, on seeing the results of today's meeting, that the Azerbaijan Government would go along with his wish to sign the protocol of intent.

As was repeatedly said during the session, ordinary people have long seen the need for unification—now it is up to the leaders of the national states. Even in Ukraine, according to Khasbulatov, they are beginning to see that they cannot cope alone with the economic and political chaos.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Sep

LD2309053192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0445 GMT 23 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 23 TASS—"President George Bush has offered U.S. 'patronage' over U.N. troops, which will undoubtedly boost the morale of the U.S. generals and the military-industrial complex," the New York correspondent of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes in comment on the U.S. President's address at the 47th session of the U.N. General Assembly.

"All the enumerated measures would encourage the U.S. generals whose departmental budget noticeably suffers from the growing triumph of democracy throughout the world," the writer of the article points out.

The threat of a world nuclear-missile war or a large-scale military conflict has been practically reduced to the minimum now, Colonel-General Igor Sergeyev, commander-in-chief of missile strategic forces, told KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR).

At the same time, he said, one should not forget that a military danger has not ceased to be a reality: "Consequently, the role of strategic missile forces which possess resources to ensure global stability remains the same so far".

Asked what areas missiles are now targeted on, Sergeyev said "the choice of targets is a matter of high politics. It is evident that a re-targeting of missiles may not be a unilateral act from the viewpoint of collective security".

In response to a question as to whether there were any cases of the stealing of nuclear munitions in strategic missile forces, Sergeyev assured that there were no such cases and that reports to that effect cannot be described otherwise than provocative ones.

"The meeting of the heads of state in Bishkek runs the risk of repeating the outcome of previous CIS summits," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes in its commentary. "A familiar lack of headway may turn out to be behind the facade of a concluding news conference which will apparently proclaim yet another successful step in the CIS development.

"One of the main documents—a charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States, regulating relationships and obligations of Republics that are part of the CIS—is in an embryo state.

"The unwillingness of a number of states (primarily Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus) to have a single all-embracing formalising document obviously runs counter to the initiative proposed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to establish common coordinating agencies (an inter-bank union and an economic council)—a prototype of the common 'government' of the European Economic Community".

Reporting the opening of the fifth session of the Russian parliament, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out that the opposition forces intend to criticise the government soon during the discussion of a bill about "A Council of Ministers—the Government of the Russian Federation".

"The adoption of this law would signify an end to the president's additional powers and the contents of the law will be the subject of a fierce contention between the president and the parliament," the newspaper writes.

"If Yegor Gaydar holds out by the new year's eve, this would undoubtedly be a big triumph for the presidential team. But whether the president will persist in upholding Gaydar still remains to be seen", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA observes.

Kozyrev Speech to UN General Assembly

LD2209163692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Speech by Foreign Minister Kozyrev to the 47th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 22 September]

[Text] Esteemed chairman, I would like first of all to congratulate you on your election. The fact that a representative of Bulgaria is, at this precise moment, occupying such a responsible and honored position symbolizes the significance the world community attaches to the peaceful democratic revolution in eastern Europe. We too are proud that our countries, linked by traditional ties of friendship, are taking this road together. The democratic movement emerged victorious from the "cold war". For the first time in history, there are unprecedented opportunities to put into effect the principles proclaimed by the United Nations. The postconfrontation, postcommunist world is no "pax Sovietica," "pax Americana," "pax Islamica," or some other monopolized system. It is a multipolar unity in variety, as initially symbolized by the United Nations Organization.

But today there is still only the opportunity, which must be made reality through joint effort. There is no place for euphoria in realism. A difficult transitional period lies ahead. But realism forces us to reject the alternatives to democracy.

Russia, having jettisoned communism, probably like nobody else has become convinced through its experience that there is no alternative to democratic development, and voted for this in its first-ever popular presidential elections, and defended it on the barricades and outside the "White House" in Moscow. No matter how difficult this course may become, the president, the government, the majority of the parliament, and the country as a whole will not turn away from it.

Totalitarianism simultaneously deprived Russia of its irreplaceable identity and of the opportunity to fulfill itself in contacts with other peoples. By locking itself away, the richest country in Eurasia has been turned into the sick man of Europe and Asia. By contrast, only an open society and an open policy will permit Russia to discover and play to the full its unique role in history. This policy is rooted deep in an ages-old Russian idea: "God is not in strength but in truth"; this was said by St. Aleksandr Nevskiy, one of the founders and protectors of the Russian state, back in the 13th century.

Today, this policy is in the genuine national and state interests of Russia as a normal and nonaggressive great power, aware of and bearing its responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Its principal features are:

—partnership and alliance in the name of democracy and a dynamic market economy with countries that share these values;

—good relations with all neighboring states;

—utmost strengthening of the Commonwealth of Independent States, of the strategic partnership with Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and all the other countries formed in place of what was the USSR;

—solidarity and mutually beneficial cooperation with all members of the world community.

Russia is aiming at acting in support of the UN efforts to achieve the twin goals of democratizing societies and renovating international relations. This is in keeping with the final declaration of the UN Security Council's summit meeting and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's talk, "The Agenda for Peace" and the first speeches which have already been made from this rostrum. Russia is prepared to practically support the proposals which were but forward yesterday by U.S. President G. Bush.

The first thing is to quell armed conflicts.

The Russian Federation will build up the efforts to untangle knots of contradictions on the territory of the former USSR that we have inherited, with the understanding of Russia's special interest and responsibility for establishing civilized principles of the United Nations and the CSCE in that part of the world.

Russia supports the participation of new independent states in those and other international organizations. We welcome their representatives in this conference hall.

We categorically refute imperial ambitions, dictate, and violence within the former USSR, as well as in other regions. If political means fail, force can and must be used to disengage the warring parties, to defend human rights and humanitarian missions, and to restore peace in strict compliance with the UN Charter.

Agreements on cease-fires and on setting up peacekeeping forces, concluded with Russia's involvement, are already working in Ossetia, the Dniester region, and Abkhazia. There, Russian soldiers serve in a peacekeeping capacity. Together with the CSCE, we will be working for a turn from war to peace in Karabakh, for preserving the integrity of Tajikistan, and for national reconciliation there. We expect to further actively cooperate with the United Nations in all these matters. We advocate Iraq's compliance with the UN decisions, we stand for ensuring the territorial integrity and a peaceful nature of that state. With this purpose, Russia sent two warships to the Persian Gulf.

It is also necessary to ensure compliance by all Yugoslav parties with UN requirements, and provide the possibility for them to maintain contact with the United Nations. A Russian infantry battalion is serving worthily within the UN forces in Yugoslavia. I would like to express my agreement with the previous speaker, Douglas Hurd, on the need to support the efforts of Milan Panic to implement in practice the intentions which he has expressed.

Russia will vigorously continue to further cooperate with other permanent members of the UN Security Council, all interested parties, in order not to lose the appearing chance

of a peaceful settlement in the Near East, in Cambodia, Angola, and other conflict areas.

We have no doubt that the calling of the United Nations is to oppose violence with law-based force, its potential of a "coercion" to peace. "Blue Helmets" should also respond when they are shot at.

It is time to strengthen the capacity of the Security Council to take quick and decisive steps regarding emergency humanitarian situations involving mass violations of human rights and interethnic clashes, including those within national boundaries.

It is important to fortify the preventive component in United Nations activity. This is both "hot lines" to the UN headquarters, and availability to the UN general secretary of reconnaissance reports, and development of fact-finding practices.

One other priority is to build up efforts to ensure human rights for national minorities.

Before, it was primarily the victims of totalitarian regimes and ideologies which had to be protected. Today, more and more often a response has to be given to aggressive nationalism, which is threatening to become a new global danger.

The replacement of ideological intransigence by national and religious intransigence would threaten an increasingly integral world with no less ruptures, national, regional, and global catastrophes. Democratic Russia categorically rejects any forms of chauvinism, be it Russophobia or antisemitism.

We are especially concerned over the discriminatory practice against Russians, Ukrainians, Jews, and all other nonindigenous nationalities which is gaining a firm hold in a number of new states which have been formed on the territory of the former USSR, in particular, in Estonia and Latvia. The situation in which 42 percent of the population of the Estonian republic are excluded from participating in elections does not fit into the framework of international law at all. We are raising and we will raise these questions in the United Nations and at other forums. We have the right to do this also because the above-mentioned countries acquired their independence to no small extent thanks to the victory of democrats in Russia. And this practice cannot be justified at all by references to the problem of the withdrawal of troops from the countries of the Baltic which has been inherited from the USSR and which we are already resolving jointly and intend to resolve fully in as short as possible a time, but taking account of the rights of those people dressed in military uniform.

It is advisable to think about a modern interpretation of the international system of guardianship [opeka] laid down in the UN Charter, all the more so since its main aims includes—and I am citing the Charter—"to encourage respect for human rights and basic freedoms for all, regardless of race, sex, language, and religion." This system has led to independence for many peoples. Now, national minorities in particular are in need of the guardianship of the world community.

The fate of the former Soviet servicemen who became POWs in Afghanistan remains a most acute humanitarian question. We call on the UN General Assembly to support the urgent solution of this problem.

Mr. Secretary General!

The accords reached in Washington by the presidents of Russia and the United States on further radical cuts in strategic nuclear weapons and a global defense system signified the turn from playing "nuclear roulette" to cooperation in the interests of strategic stability for all and with the participation of all interested states.

Confirming its obligations under the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the Russian Federation calls on all countries which have not done so to join this treaty as nonnuclear states. We proceed from the premise that all former republics of the USSR, including Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan will act this way. This step should be taken as soon as possible because the coming into force of the treaty on strategic nuclear arms depends on this.

We expect that the realization of the great responsiblity and the readiness for compromise outcomes will prevail at the conclusive stage of the approval of the convention on banning chemical weapons.

Russia favors monitoring [kontrol], including through the United Nations, international weapons delivery systems, first of all of offensive weapons, and also the most destructive ones. A particularly tough approach is needed toward regimes which flout the norms of internatonal law.

There is an obvious need to draw up specific programs for the conversion of military industries, through the shared efforts of individual countries and the common actions of the international community. The initiative in this could be taken by the United Nations and its specialized institutions. Real disarmament and redirection of military industry to peaceful goals will in the future allow additional resources to be released for development requirements. But speaking of development, it will not be achieved or ensured in full measure, like political and economic rights and freedoms, unless the creative potential of the individual can be unshackled in a free market environment. Russia has discovered this from its own experience.

In order to successfully achieve the goal of development, it is vital to strengthen interaction between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. Here lies the key to harmonizing the efforts of the world community in such fields as support for macroeconomic reform, technical cooperation, and aid in resolving social problems. The developing and developed countries will gain from this. The UN conference in Rio de Janeiro strengthened the consensus on the need for unity of policy for development and environmental protection. The renewal of international relations requires the rationalization of the United Nations itself and its system. The desire of a number of states to play a more active role in the United Nations is natural. The UN Charter makes provision for this, allowing, among other things, the Security Council to create auxiliary bodies in which many states participate. We are convinced that the

United Nations and other international organizations will increasingly regulate international relations.

In conclusion, I turn to you, Mr. Secretary General. Russia supports your efforts to resolve international crises, to increase the efficiency of the UN Secretariat, and to coordinate the work of all international organizations. Support for the United Nations presupposes compliance with one's financial obligations to this organization. Despite its economic difficulties, between September of this year and March 1993 Russia will pay $130 million in partial settlement of its debt to the United Nations, and will pay another $30 million to other organizations. Your recent top-level talks in Moscow confirmed the proximity of our vision of a great future for the United Nations Organization.

Thank you.

Kozyrev Views Debt Repayment, Reform Status

LD2309084492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1005 GMT 23 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] United Nations September 23 TASS—"Russia needs not merely foreign aid, but a programme for cooperation with the civilised world, something like the 'Marshall Plan'," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told the CNN TV company on Tuesday [22 September]. "We need a strategic programme", which would help draw Russia into international market relations and include it in the family of civilised democratic states. I believe it is wrong to speak about Russia's collapse or about some sort of a catastrophe awaiting our country this winter," he added.

"When will Russia be able to repay its debts?", Kozyrev was asked. "This will take several years," the minister replied. "We shall definitely repay our debts, but this should be done in a way that would facilitate to the maximum the process of reforms in Russia at their present stage."

Touching on the state of affairs at the Russo-American talks on strategic offensive weapons, Kozyrev said: "We are continuing our exchange of views with the United States. We are promoting cooperation and drawing up the necessary documents." The minister added that he saw no political obstacles that could prevent agreements between the two states.

The questioner touched on the postponement of President Yeltsin's visit to Japan and asked whether Russia could afford to discuss the Islands issue today. "We are continuing to discuss this problem in our relations with Japan," Kozyrev said. "Our relations embrace a much broader range of problems. We prefer not to dramatise the situation and are continuing our preparations for the visit. As to the problem of the islands and investments in the Russian economy, Kozyrev said he believed one should not be hinged on the other.

Speaking about Yugoslavia's membership in the United Nations, the minister pointed to the need to leave the door open to all the states of former Yugoslavia so that they could work in international organisations, including the General Assembly. At the same time, it is necessary to give a "double signal"— on the one hand, to warn against negative consequences entailed by failure of any of the states involved in the conflict to fulfil the terms set by the world community, and, on the other, to back the peaceful efforts exerted both by the Belgrade government and the other conflicting sides. Kozyrev said the UN forces, deployed in the conflict area, should be given the right to open reply fire.

Answering in conclusion to a question about criticisms levelled at him in Russia, Kozyrev stressed that although the reform team is running up against numerous difficulties, dissatisfaction and criticism, it feels the president's complete support and full trust.

Kozyrev Meets With Foreign Officials at UN

Meets ROK Minister; Views Yeltsin Visit

LD2309053292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2227 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 23 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—At a meeting on 22 September in New York, Russian Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev and ROK Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok discussed questions on bilateral relations in light of the upcoming visit by Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin to the ROK.

Meets Iranian Counterpart

LD2209143192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0330 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev had a meeting on 21 September in New York with A.A. Velayati, Iran's foreign affairs minister. An interested discussion of specific directions in cooperation between the two countries took place, and ,in particular, concerning the Caspian Sea region.

The ministers devoted much attention to issues of cooperation between Russia and Iran in tackling regional problems.

Meets UK Foreign Secretary Hurd

LD2209145892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0152 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev had a meeting on 21 September in New York with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. They exchanged opinions on progress in implementing the resolutions of the London conference on the former Yugoslavia and on the situation around Iraq. The sides pointed out the importance of strengthening cooperation within the framework of the five permanent members of the UN Security council in the interests of settling regional conflicts and consolidating international peace and stability.

Meets Pakistani Minister

LD2209141792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0200 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 22 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev, had a conversation

on 21 September in New York with M.S.Kh. Kanju, Pakistan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs. They discussed the prospects for Russian-Pakistani relations and voiced concern with the development of the situation in Afghanistan. Both sides stressed it is necessary to enhance the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in the region.

Meets Israel's Peres; Signs Memorandum

LD2309054992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2225 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 23 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The foreign ministers of Russia and Israel met in New York on 22 September. A.V. Kozyrev and S. Peres discussed the situation which has developed in the talks on the Near East settlement.

The ministers also signed a memorandum on mutual understanding which notes that it is the two states' intention to interact in the interests of ensuring peace, stability, and the political settlement of the conflict situations and which confirms their intention to achieve an all-embracing settlement in the Near East on the basis of observing the rights and interests of all the sides and implementing the articles of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

In the sphere of bilateral relations, Russia and Israel plan to develop political contacts and facilitate the broadening of trade, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural ties.

Meets Netherlands Foreign Minister

LD2209165192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1552 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] United Nations, 22 Sep—Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev had talks in New York on 22 September with Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek. The ministers discussed the propsects for the Maastricht accords in Europe, and the situation in the conflict areas on the territory of the CIS and the former Yugoslavia.

Shumeyko Meets Scowcroft; Holds Talks

LD2309122292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington September 23 TASS—National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft received Vladimir Shumeyko, first vice-chairman of the Russian Government, at the White House here on Tuesday [22 September] and had a talk with him.

Scowcroft was informed about the progress of economic reforms in Russia and the beginning work of Russian representatives in international financial agencies.

Scowcroft assured the Russian side that the United States was firmly behind the reforms launched by Boris Yeltsin's government. He said the United States intended to go on rendering all-out support to its efforts.

The sides also discussed concrete aspects of bilateral economic relations, including the access of Russian goods to the American market.

Foreign Trade Minister Continues Debt Talks

LD2209130592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0723 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington September 22 TASS—Russian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven told journalists that Russian representatives at the talks in Washington on the terms of paying off the 70 billion U.S. dollars foreign debt announced on Monday that the talks would be completed no sooner than at the end of next month. "A realistic date for the end of the talks can be set approximately at the end of October," Aven said.

Aven spoke to journalists after several days of negotiations with officials of different countries who will take part in the autumn session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank which opens in Washington on Tuesday.

Russia wants to defer paying off its foreign debt for 15 years to create favourable conditions for the transition of its national economy from a totalitarian communist system to capitalism.

At the same time U.S. representatives, who openly support Russia's position, believe a breakthrough in the matter can be achieved as early as the end of September.

However, Aven noted that Germany, which accounts for over a half of the Russian foreign debt, is still opposing the delay.

Aven noted that the talks had been successful over the last few days, but naturally, Germany has more grounds for concern than other countries to which Russia owes less sums.

U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury David Mulford, supporting the efforts of Russian representatives, said that European creditors of the Russian Federation, like Germany, have doubts which should be dispelled to achieve the desired agreement.

Mulford said that Germany was not the only country to have problems and not the only country among creditors to be concerned.

In this connection Aven explained that other obstacles concerning foreign debt are caused by interior problems.

Russia wants former Soviet republics to pass over their foreign debt problems to Russia. Former Soviet republics, in their turn, should share the former Soviet foreign debt with Russia.

Aleksey Mozhin, Russian representative in international financial organisations, told journalists that Russia was seeking to bring down inflation which was being achieved at the expense of the slowing down of the economic growth.

Bank, EBRD To Grant Energy Credits

LD2209140192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0909 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington September 22 TASS—Experts of the World Bank are currently engaged in intensive preparations for granting a half-billion U.S. dollar credit to Russia to modernize its oil industry, president of the World Bank Lewis Preston said on Monday.

On the same day President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] Jacques Attali addressed an international conference of bankers under way in Washington and said that the EBRD would allocate a 130 million dollar credit to Russia and would promote additional private investments worth 220 million dollars. Attali said that the total credit to Russia would amount to 850 million dollars. Attali noted that he hoped the credit would make a tangible contribution to the revival of the Russian energy sector and help remove barriers on the way to private capital.

Minister Sets Conditions for Assuming CIS Debts

MK2209140692 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Sep 92 pp 1-2

[Interview with Petr Aven, foreign economic relations minister, by Sergey Parkhomenko under the "IMF" rubric; place and date not given: "Russia Should Assume Sole Responsibility for USSR's External Commitments, Petr Aven, Russian Federation Foreign Economic Relations Minister, Believes. Russian Federation Delegation Prepared To Defend This Viewpoint Before IMF"]

[Text] [Parkhomenko] All the indications are that the results of the meeting of the Paris Club a week ago will form the background for the current IMF session opening in Washington. Many Russian newspapers and world news agencies have given an extremely pessimistic assessment of the results of your mission in Paris....

[Aven] To my mind, the degree of coincidence between these assessments and reality is zero. The Paris Club was not meant to have made any decisions last Monday. Only preliminary consultations were planned—that is all. And these took place.

As you know, the three-month deferment in payments on the foreign debt that we were granted ends 30 September. But as it is very hard to formulate further agreements with Russia, it was stipulated in advance that preliminary talks concerning just the ideology of a possible new deferment would be held. That is precisely why the meeting was not held at the end of the month, but earlier, in order to leave time for additional talks and the subsequent conclusion of an agreement.

Furthermore, we usually go to the Paris Club with a large number of figures, including export figures, figures relating to the purchase of currency by the state, and payments on the foreign debt. This time there was virtually none of this. There was my report on the country's maroeconomic situation, and on the development of events in Russia since January of this year, when we concluded our first deferment agreement. We also reported on what we believe must be changed in our mutual relations with our creditors. So there could not have been any failure: We were talking about something else.

One of the claims that keeps turning up in the newspapers—and does not correspond to reality either—is that we are asking for a deferment for 10 years, or 15, or 50. Various figures are being named. But there is no such thing as a general deferment. In principle, different categories of debts come under different agreements.

Therefore, we have four or five scenarios with precise instructions on which categories of debts can be deferred and how. We intend to discuss these for the first time in Washington.

Our package of proposals contains two fundamental ideas, to my mind.

The first is that this time it would seem important to us to place the figures from the country's balance of payments for 1993 and subsequent years at the heart of the future agreement. As yet there is no coordinated figure today: We have our own assessments, and there are the IMF's assessments—and there is a certain disparity between them. Meanwhile, the balance of payments determines exactly how much, according to an international expert assessment, a country can in fact afford to pay.

Our calculations show that Russia will need something in the order of $18 billion next year to "cover" its top-priority problems. After we have taken into account everything we have received—loans, aid, IMF credits—we will arrive at a certain sum which can be released for payments on the foreign debt. It is this sum that we want to focus on at the talks.

Aleksandr Shokhin has already named it as $2.5-3 billion a year. It is true that, according to all our assessments, we cannot pay any more. However, we are prepared to make this figure more accurate together with our creditors. And if they unexpectedly discover some major sources of finance here—for example, if someone suddenly gives us 10 billion— we are prepared to pay more. But only if someone shows us this money in reality.

If we manage to coordinate the balance of payments definitively by the end of September, as the IMF is hoping, and our scenarios are finalized, then another meeting will be held with the Paris Club at which some decision or other will be adopted. If we do not succeed in this, then the deferment will continue for another 15 days (although this procedure is not part of the Paris Club's usual practice) simply in order not to keep meeting every two weeks.

[Parkhomenko] But what if you still do not manage to obtain any deferments as a result?

[Aven] We will have to pay out over $20 billion a year.

As for this year, a total of 1.1 billion has been paid out during the past nine months and we will have to remit another 4 billion or so for regular debt payments. Furthermore, around 6 billion of arrears on imports will be hanging over us.

Incidentally, it should be mentioned that these debts have arisen practically in the past two to three years alone: In 1990, and particularly in 1991, under Pavlov's government. In fact huge gaps [provaly] already existed in the balance of payments during these years. There was no money for making payments on credits and imports, and money was simply taken from clients' accounts, from enterprises' accounts, from the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity [Vneshekonombank]....

[Parkhomenko] But the Russian Government is doing more or less the same....

[Aven] Unlike them, we always cover debts of this sort quickly. Their total has never exceeded $200 million, and now it is considerably smaller. Approximately 10.6 billion of clients' money was spent under Pavlov, however. And when they talked about "frozen" accounts, in actual fact there was no money in them by then; it had already been spent.

Of course, we must recall why this happened. In many respects it was because income from the export of petroleum fell very sharply: In 1986 petroleum provided $22 billion, while last year the figure was only 6 billion; 16 billion difference. But that is what happened, there was a drop.

And now the second key theme of our present talks with the IMF.

As you know, a mechanism of unified responsibility for the USSR's foreign debt is now in operation among the CIS countries. The decision to have unified responsibility was not only the only correct decision, it was the only possible one, it seems to us, at the time when it was adopted, at the end of last year.

Our creditors, horrified, saw that their normal debtor—the USSR in the form of the Vneshekonombank—no longer existed. And they had to deal with someone. But whom? Turkmenia? Or Kyrgyzstan? Or Russia? They did not know anyone personally—neither the Kyrgyz leaders, nor the Russian leaders, nor the Armenian leaders.

Therefore, the first thing they proposed was to make everything look as much as possible as it did in the past. And what it meant precisely was: You take responsibility for the debts together, and if any one of you does not pay, then each and every one of you can be taken to court.... And Vneshekonombank is authorized to do the calculations on behalf of everyone. Everyone's part in this will be determined—but that is your internal matter.

It could easily be assumed even then that the mechanism that was to be created in order to elaborate joint decisions, like many other mechanisms in interrepublic cooperation, would not work. And that is what happened: In the end, the system is operating badly, and none of the republics is paying anything.

Although it may be putting it too strongly to say that nobody is paying "anything." Money is being taken from enterprises in a number of republics which still have accounts in Vneshekonombank to make payments on the foreign debt, so that some trifling sum is in fact being made available.... But even this figure is gradually falling because enterprises have actively been removing their currency revenue from there since the beginning of the year.... So that now you can say that almost 100 percent of what is being paid is definitely Russian money. Well, 95 percent for sure.

However, a collective decisionmaking mechanism still has to be in operation, as before. This is seriously restricting our possibilities. For example, in the management of assets. Although in all seriousness everything is very dubious as regards assets. We are formally owed a total of $42 billion. Naturally we are holding talks on this issue, and we have now intensified them sharply. We are trying to obtain some sort of goods to pay for the debts, or at least a part of them. But all in all we are not forecasting any golden rain here. Our main debtors are the countries that cannot return anything in the near future even if they wanted to: Cuba, Iraq, Syria, Vietnam.... Cuba, for example, owes us 28 billion; so this is a debt that doesn't exist. And of course it has turned out that our assets are considerably cheaper than our liabilities. They are simply incomparable.

But nevertheless, issues concerning the assets must still be resolved by all the republics jointly because they are shared by them.

Second. In our work we are bound directly to our debt. We are carrying out swapping operations—converting a debt into property, for example. Or a debt into a debt: Our long-term commitments, for example, are more expensive than the short-term ones. The world still believes far more in Russia's future. In any case, more than in Russia's present. And we can, for example, buy up all our short-term commitments on the market and place them in long-term ones in order to obtain some kind of sum on the difference which can then be released into partial payment of the debt....

We made a proposal on this whole range of reasons: On the foreign arena, Russia alone will represent the whole debt to the outside world (and 61.5 percent of all the debts of the former Union belong to Russia). And then we ourselves will conclude agreements between the former republics which will determine future mutual relations in this sphere.

When we are making arrangements with the republics whose share in the debt is quite insignificant, but which definitely cannot pay in currency, it is likely that we will be able to take upon ourselves their share of the assets and properties. Turkmenistan's share, for example, is 0.7 percent. Quite frankly, we would spend far more money on flights if we tried to coordinate some kind of decision than we would gain from this effort....

And in general, we have to admit straight out that none of the republics will pay in currency today. They cannot do so

at present; and in the next 20 years their balance of payments will be such that nothing will change much. So the question will be resolved in different ways in each case: depending on the overall context of our relations and on the prospects of political cooperation.

At the moment we have agreements with three former republics on the transfer of the relevant quotas of assets and liabilities to Russia: Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Belarus. These are the "zero options" so to speak.

But Ukraine is a special case. A total of 16.4 percent of the debt belongs to it; this is quite a big sum, and, naturally, we cannot take Ukrainian commitments upon ourselves just like that. In the same way, Ukraine would never entrust us to deal with its assets, as it considers them to be too big.

In that event we can only talk of one thing: a long-term Russian-Ukrainian agreement. For instance, to the effect that Ukraine will continue to owe us its part of the USSR's foreign commitments, and it will receive part of the assets as they are returned. But externally, Russia will represent all the commitments of the former Union alone.

[Parkhomenko] But maybe Ukraine, which possesses such a considerable proportion of the assets and liabilities, will also prefer to sort them out by itself....

[Aven] I sincerely believe that the conclusion of such a long-term agreement between the two countries would work to the advantage of both of them. Russia would receive the right to make decisions freely. And as for Ukraine—we are not proposing, for example, that it should give up its part of the assets forever: It will receive that when we succeed in getting payments. After all, we are just as interested as Ukraine in getting more and paying less. So it is ridiculous for us not to trust one another here....

Finally, as soon as Ukraine signs such an agreement, it will be entirely clear of foreign debt, which is extremely advantageous. After all, there is the problem of U.S. legislation, which directly prohibits giving credits (for instance, grain credits; and food credits in general) to those who do not pay for them. If we start sorting things out today, then it will turn out that Ukraine cannot obtain another cent. And what we are proposing is the only thing that can help Ukraine in its present situation.

We need to overcome the profound distrust of one another here. Let me repeat once again: This is not a question of taking on someone's debt but of concluding a state treaty between Russia and Ukraine on debt commitments. This will evidently require detailed talks, and ultimately parliamentary approval and ratification, no doubt.

In addition to all that, such a decision would help overcome many legal problems too. The point is that the Paris Club only deals with IMF members. The meetings that were held earlier were not even called Paris Club meetings, but were called "Meetings with the creditor-countries belonging to the Paris Club with the former USSR republics." But we want a normal, long-term, legally clean "Paris Club-Russia" agreement.

[Parkhomenko] But at the moment the great likelihood remains of Ukraine also wanting to take part in talks with the Paris Club....

[Aven] We definitely intend to meet with the Ukrainian representatives in Washington. It does indeed have every right to remain at the negotiating table together with Russia. But then, to begin with, it will have to start paying off part of its share of the debts.

But Russia is at the moment forced to hold talks in accordance with a mixed scheme of things, as it were. On the one hand the principle of unified responsibility is in operation, and we are obliged to proceed on that basis, but then there is the future possible switch to our bearing all the responsibility alone.

[Parkhomenko] Are any reciprocal conditions of an economic or political nature being put forward in response to all these options and scenarios (or might they be put forward in the future)?

[Aven] Without the shadow of a doubt any agreement will have some kind of conditions. There is no question of any political conditions, but naturally economic ones will be put forward. But they must be fully in line with the terms for obtaining credit in the IMF. This is one and the same standard package.

Therefore the conditions (on the balance of payments deficit and the volume of monetary emission, and so on) that we have already signed on the first tranche of the IMF credit, for 1.5 billion, and those that we hope to sign in the fall, on the second loan, the 3 billion, will be in line with the requirements of the Paris Club. This is quite normal practice: After all, the creditor who agrees to a deferment has to see that a country is doing all it can to be able to settle its debts later....

[Parkhomenko] But the Russian president has made several extremely candid public statements in the past few months to the effect that we will not go down on our knees, we will not be under the IMF's thumb, and we will force it to understand that in our case, the case of a great power, it should make some exceptions to the general rules. How do you predict that the IMF will react to such declarations? Or has it already reacted?

[Aven] I can only repeat what Gaydar and other members of the government have said repeatedly. We agree fully with the president's position: Indeed we will not get down on our knees before anyone, and we only intend to implement the terms that we consider advisable. I would say that the conditions that the IMF is setting us are the same conditions that we are setting ourselves. As a man who has received an economics education I also believe that we should not have a deficit greater than 5 percent a year. I also agree that the rate of growth of the money supply should be restricted, and the base figure—700 billion worth of new credit for the second half of this year—which we have agreed with the IMF is a realistic figure.

This can probably be compared with the rules of etiquette in polite company: You have to eat with a knife and fork, but

after all, you yourself make the choice of company. In time, you start behaving respectably at the table—even when you are alone.

Nuclear Minister Favors Stronger IAEA Role

LD2209184592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1807 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Vienna September 22 TASS—Russian minister of nuclear power-engineering Viktor Mikhaylov today spoke out for strengthening the role and extending the functions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as an instrument for cooperation and a mechanism of the joint solution of problems involved in ensuring nuclear safety.

Mikhailov addressed the current session of the IAEA conference in the Austrian capital as head of the Russian delegation which attends this forum for the first time.

He set out the essence of efforts being taken by Russia and other CIS republics to ensure the safety of the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union and voiced confidence that all member-countries of the Commonwealth will soon join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The Russian leadership attaches priority to the development of the nuclear disarmament process and consistenly takes qualitatively new steps in this direction. Symptomatic in this regard is the decision by Russia and the U.S. to halt the production of weapons- grade plutonium and highly-enriched uranium. However, real disarmament is possible only if the accumulated huge stocks of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium are destroyed, he emphasised.

Reducing stage-by-stage the number of underground nuclear explosions and their eventual full termination can become an important milestone on the path towards a nuclear weapons-free world, Mikhailov said. Relevant control mechanisms are available and they could in future be transformed into international standards and requirements.

On the present state of nuclear power engineering in Russia, Mikhailov said 28 industrial power-generating units are in operation at nine nuclear power stations on the republic's territory at present. Their aggregate capacity is 20,000 megawatts. Another three reactors will soon be commissioned at the Balakovo, Kursk and Kalinin nuclear plants.

The Chernobyl disaster drastically affected the development of nuclear power-egineering in Russia. It sizeably cut into plans to put new capacities into operation. Nevertheless, applications began to be received from various parts of Russia for building nuclear plants under projects of new-generation serial units with enhanced safety and the use of passive protection systems.

In his speech, Mikhailov also touched on the financial problem associated with paying off debt in contributions to the IAEA's regular budget. He said that by the end of September Russia will remit five million dollars to the IAEA and another seven million before this year is out. Thus, the greater part of the former USSR's debts will be abolished shortly.

'Influenza' Could Delay Grachev's U.S. Visit

OW2209133992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1301 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The INTERFAX correspondent learned in the Russian Defense Ministry that General Pavel Grachev with his wife will come to the United States on an official visit in the period from Sept. 27 through Oct. 4, 1992. However, the defense ministerial circles reason that the defense minister's visit could be rescheduled due to his influenza.

Shokhin: Yeltsin May Visit Japan by Year's End

OW2309033392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0303 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Washington, Sept. 22 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin could visit Japan late this year or early next year, Deputy Russian Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin said Tuesday [22 September]. But Shokhin told KYODO NEWS SERVICE it is difficult to specify exact dates, because Yeltsin plans to visit Britain and China this year and must open the Congress of People's Deputies. Yeltsin's planned trip to Japan earlier this month was suddenly canceled.

Shokhin, in Washington to attend the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said better bilateral economic relations will contribute to improving political ties. In order to further economic ties, Japan should endorse all assistance to Russia scheduled prior to the cancellation of Yeltsin's visit, including a 360 million dollar loan for natural gas development, he said.

Shokhin said the Japanese Government seems to be ready to announce a Russian aid package, indicating the two countries are continuing negotiations on economic assistance.

Japan Official: Position 'Unchanged' on Kurils

OW2209194392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Japanese position on the "sovereign territories" will remain unchanged, Japanese Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Taro Aso told an INTERFAX correspondent. He headed a Japanese delegation of parliament members in a meeting with Russian Parliamentary International Affairs and International Economic Ties Committee Chairman Evening Ambartsumov.

According to Ambartsumov, the Japanese delegates expressed their disappointment over the postponement of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan. Ambartsumov said the Russian government had not tried to create a feeling among the Japanese people of a Russian diplomatic victory over Japan.

The Japanese delegation head told an INTERFAX correspondent that Japanese parliament supports any meeting at any place between the leaders of the two countries "for an open exchange of opinions in the interests of further developing relations between us".

He especially noted that "the executive government, parliament and Japanese people are very interested in the return of their territories".

Ministry Denies 'Breakdown' in Yeltsin's Contacts

OW2209192192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian foreign policy department refuted "various kinds of conjecture" about a breakdown in the program of President Yeltsin's contacts abroad. They added that, as agreed upon earlier, Yeltsin will visit London November 9-10.

The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry noted that "speculation" on possible disruptions in the schedule of Yeltsin's trips abroad appeared after Yeltsin's visit to Japan was postponed a few days before it was to take place.

Sources in the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry and in the British embassy confirmed in a conversation with IF [INTERFAX] that currently "the text of the Russian-British agreement on principles of mutual relations and other documents which are planned to be signed during Yeltsin's visit to London are being actively prepared."

IF Note: In preparation for the Yeltsin's visit, Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit Great Britain in mid October.

Government Discussing Sanctions Against Estonia

LD2209122392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—The Russian Government discussed at a meeting on Monday [21 September] possible sanctions which might be introduced against Estonia in connection with the violation and disrespect by the Baltic state of a number of articles of the treaty on interstate relations between Russia and Estonia, TASS learned from official sources.

The government was authorised by the Russian Parliament to discuss the issue.

Over 40 per cent of Estonian Russian-speaking residents were deprived of the right to vote at the recent presidential elections in the Baltic state.

'Nonrecognition' of Estonian Government Urged

OW2209193292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1601 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I am calling for the non-recognition of the new Estonian parliament and government now being formed, so long as it remains illegally elected, with 42 percent of the population denied the right to vote. And if an election is conducted in any part of Estonia in which the entire population is allowed to vote, I will be inclined to give credence to the views of the government chosen thereby," announced Mikhail Astafayev, a People's Deputy of Russia and the leader of the opposition Constitutional Democratic party; the remarks were made to a BALTFAX correspondent.

At the same time, Astafyev, a member of a group monitoring Estonian-Russian negotiations, said that the opposition was against the suspension of negotiations which, in his words, were the only means by which Russia could "make demands" of Estonia. "It is a different matter if the Estonians refuse to respond—as of course they will—in which case we will demand the curtailment of relations. We might, for instance, call for the suspension of negotiations on the withdrawal of forces from the republic, and perhaps for the adoption of sanctions," he said.

Astafyev said that the question of negotiations with Estonia would certainly be discussed at the session of the Russian parliament scheduled to begin on Tuesday [22 September]. The fact that the question is still open and on the agenda, explained the leader of the Constitutional Democrats, suggests that the leadership of the Supreme Soviet "is not particularly interested in this matter, and would prefer to avoid it."

The resolution passed by the Supreme Soviet on July 17 entitled "On Human Rights in Estonia" required parliamentary and governmental institutions to draw up a program of sanctions against Estonia by September 20 in the event that the Estonian government continued to follow discriminatory policies; no such program, however, has been written.

Collegium To Adopt 'Severe' Estonian Position

OW2209193792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1600 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a session on Tuesday [22 September] in Moscow, the Russian government collegium discussed Russia's relations with Estonia. INTERFAX [as received] was informed by head of the governmental press-centre Gennadiy Shipitko that Moscow's position on the republic would be "unequivocable and sufficiently severe".

Shipitko said that in Estonia, where around 40% of the population, composed mainly of Russian speaking citizens, had been deprived of its political rights, "the leadership's policies had been shown for the first time in their stark and

cruel entirety." Meanwhile, he reminded us, Estonia's politicians had made a promise not to violate the rights of Russians living in the republic. However, the governmental representative remarked that "politicians are judged first and foremost by what they do, and not by what they say."

Shipitko stressed that the cabinet could not neglect the fate of the Russian speaking population in Estonia. He did not rule out the possibility of Russia reviewing its commitments regarding oil and other supplies to Estonia.

Ministry Denies Swedish Claims on Submarines

LD2309091792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0845 GMT 23 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep— The press service of the Russian Defense Ministry today refuted a report by the Swedish telegraph bureau claiming that submarines being chased by vessels of the national Navy in Swedish territorial waters belong to Russia. The telegraph bureau circulated this information on 22 September, quoting Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt. However, the report stresses that there are no direct indications as to the state identity of the submarines.

Nikolay Medvedev, deputy chief of the Russian Defense Ministry press service, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that "Russian submarines deal with the problems of military training and military service outside the territorial waters of foreign states." Quoting information from the headquarters of the Russian Navy, he underscored that Russian military vessels do not violate Swedish naval borders, and that submarines have not been sent to the region of the Baltic Sea indicated by the Swedish side.

Macedonian Team Delivers Aid Request to Yeltsin

OW2209181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin and Vyacheslav Terekhov; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the information available to DP [Diplomatic Panorama], on Tuesday [22 September] a delegation of Macedonia's Foreign Ministry submitted to Russia's Foreign Ministry a message from the Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov to his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin.

The message requests Russian aid to cope with the difficult situation the former Yugoslav republic is facing. The Macedonians connect their hardships with the U.N. resolution concerning Serbia which bans economic contacts with it, and with the economic blockade imposed on Macedonia by Greece.

In its next edition DP will publish an exclusive interview with Macedonia's Deputy Foreign Minister L. Arsovski.

German Vice Chancellor To Visit 30 Sep

OW2209221492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned that a government delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany led by German vice-chancellor and Minister of the Economy Juergen Moellemann will arrive in Moscow on 30 September. The German officials will take part in that day's session of the Advisory Council of the Russian Federation and the FRG on Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Cultural Cooperation.

It is expected that Andrey Nechayev, the Russian Minister of the Economy, will deliver the session's opening address.

The delegation's itinerary will include a three-hour meeting between Moellemann, acting Prime Minister of Russia Yegor Gaydar, and Vice-Premier Chornomyrdin. The heads of the delegation will hold a press conference after the council session adjourns at 17.30.

Ryabov Receives German Parliamentary Group

PM2109134992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Meeting at Russian House of Soviets"]

[Text] N.T. Ryabov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, received a delegation of the FRG Bundesrat Standing Council 14 September.

Dr. Guenther Hermes, one of the delegation leaders, noted at the meeting:

"The conclusion of the Maastricht treaties is an important step toward a new type of Europe. But this process presents certain problems for us, and we therefore need partners."

Hermes was also interested in the question of Russia's admission to the EEC. Concerning Russia's readiness for a wide-ranging treaty with the EEC, N. Ryabov stated:

"We would like to conclude it as early as before the start of the new year. This form of activity will make it possible to realize the idea of cooperation between Russia and variously oriented states from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

At the conclusion of the meeting the guests thanked the Russian members of parliament for their warm reception and expressed their readiness to give Russia comprehensive aid via advice and action.

Commentator Discusses U.S. Policy Toward Cuba

LD2209210592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Valentin Gorkayev commentary]

[Text] There is little hope that the United Nations will heed Cuba's call on the General Assembly to condemn the

economic blockade that the United States imposed on that island. A commentary by Valentin Gorkayev:

Even if it does, it's most unlikely the Americans will lift their trade embargo on the Castro regime. Both President Bush and his Democratic rival in the presidential race, Mr. Bill Clinton, call for tougher sanctions against Cuba, but it is to be hoped that this is prompted by one-off consideration of the election campaign rather than a well conceived strategy of U.S. diplomacy towards that country.

Although there is no love lost between Washington and Havana, the former socialist camp of which Cuba was once the vanguard in the Western hemisphere is now defunct. The new realities should have been reflected in relations between the two countries, but nothing happened despite widespread expectations on [as heard] an easing of tension and greater contacts between Washington and Havana. Instead, the United States seems to be tightening its economic stranglehold on the island. On 24th April it closed its ports to third countries' ships carrying goods or passengers to and from Cuba. A similar ban was later imposed on ships carrying commodities with partial and total Cuban content. But after it banned entry to any ship calling at a Cuban port for 180 days, the European Community issued a memorandum describing such actions as a breach of international law on shipping in neutral waters even in the time of war, let alone the peacetime.

In the meantime, a report by the Inter-American Dialogue Commission, incorporating more than 100 officials from the United States, Canada and Latin America and led by the former UN Secretary- General Mr. Perez de Cuellar, calls for Cuba's integration in the Organization of American States as a way of ensuring democratic changes in that country. The report describes the current isolation of Cuba as an anachronism, calling it useless, harmful and even perilous. But on the other hand the Cuban Government is expected to comply with a number of demands, including the holding of free and fair elections under international control. Many, however, believe that the U.S. Cuban policy can become a renewed source of friction between the United States and Latin America and beyond. It is to be hoped that the Americans will heed the voice of reason.

Gaydar To Sign Border Pact With Poland

OW2209202192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin and Vyacheslav Terekhov; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the information available to DP [Diplomatic Panorama], the documents to be signed during a visit to Poland to be paid by Russia's Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar in early October include a treaty on transborder cooperation.

The draft treaty says that it is designed to "contribute to economic and social progress in the two countries, particularly in the St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad Regions of the Russian Federation and in Poland's north-eastern and maritime areas".

The treaty stipulates that the term "transborder cooperation" signifies coordinated economic, social, legal and other measures aimed at strengthening and furthering relations between regional and local authorities in the two countries". [quotation marks as received]

As Polish diplomats in Moscow explained to DP's correspondent, the two sides will undertake to inform their regional and local authorities of the opportunities opening in the area of transborder cooperation, and take steps to create favorable conditions for their materialization.

Transborder cooperation between Russia and Poland will involve all types of transport, its infrastructure, communications, telecommunications and postal services. Facilities and organizations in Russian and Polish border regions will jointly resolve problems connected with electricity, gas and water supplies, and cooperate in industrial production and farming.

The draft pays particular attention to the need to develop such industries as trade, public services, finances, banking, construction and municipal amenities, such as the building of purification facilities and equipment for utilizing waste.

Besides, regional and local authorities in Russia and Poland intend to closely cooperate in the use of natural resources, in environmental protection, in the efforts to combat crime and in rescue operations at sea.

A joint commission will be formed to work out recommendations and coordinate common trends in regional cooperation. The proposed treaty will be in force for ten years since the time of its signing, and might be prolonged.

IZVESTIYA Views IMF, World Bank Funding

PM2209135392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "IMF and World Bank Intend To Substantially Cut Aid Promised to CIS"]

[Text] Washington—There is every indication that the World Bank is to reduce its assessment of the amount of aid that it will offer the countries of the former Union in the foreseeable future. It emerges from what has been said by a number of the bank's high-ranking personnel as they prepare for the annual meeting of the World Bank's Board of Governors due to open in Washington next week that next year the CIS countries can expect just $2-2.5 billion.

However, quite recently the bank clearly indicated that it is willing to "inject" something in the order of $5 billion annually into the former USSR. Wilfrid Taluits [name as transliterated], the bank's vice president in charge of the East European and Russian sectors, did not deny that the World Bank will in actual fact be willing to offer the CIS very sizeable loans and credits, considerably in excess of $5 billion a year even. But, he remarked, answering my question, only if they are supremely creditworthy.

A detailed discussion as to how creditworthy the CIS countries are will take place at the bank's meeting and at a meeting of the IMF that will also be held in the U.S. capital

next week. As you can see, the reference is not only to financial, but also to political creditworthiness. The fate of the $3 billion that Russia expects to receive from the IMF as well as the $1 billion that we were allocated a month or more ago depends to a considerable extent on the governors' conclusions.

It is clear from conversations behind the scenes at the bank and the IMF that the criterion for political creditworthiness will be how fully Gaydar's administration will be able to meet their promise to the IMF in July, when a memorandum was signed in Moscow guaranteeing that by the end of the year inflation rates in Russia would be knocked down to 9 percent a month and the budget deficit to 5 percent of GNP. I think that Aleksandr Shokhin, who will head the Russian delegation at the IMF meeting, and Vladimir Shumeyko, who is coming to Washington less as first vice premier than as a public figure—president of the Confederation of Associations of Russian Entrepreneurs—have extremely difficult work ahead: They have to prove that international financial circles' skepticism regarding the realistic nature of these figures is unfounded.

In preparation for the meetings of the boards of governors the bank and the IMF have already published or are on the point of publishing a host of reports, references, and analytical notes. The most interesting—for us—will be published at the end of the week. The World Bank will publish five reports in total, including reports evaluating the current status of and prospects for the development of agriculture in Russia and the other CIS countries.

The following figures and conclusions from the references and reports that have already been published are interesting: It will take at least $25 billion just to bring oil production in the CIS back to its former level, not to mention topping this level; direct foreign investments in the economy of the former Union do not exceed $05. billion.

"That is miserly," a high-ranking World Bank official said, stressing that direct foreign investments are "absolutely essential and that investments in the oil industry will be the engine driving investments as a whole"; "there will be no return to the former Soviet economic style, but there will still be plenty of vacillation and social tension on this path"; only toward the end of the decade will the Russian economy be able to attain the 1988 level.

Brazilian Firm Signs $1 Billion Contract

OW2209150192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1302 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy signed a five-year contract with Brazil's Groupo Monteiro Airquip on September 18 which may enable Russia to materially reduce its losses of grain during storage, which at present reach 25%. Now Russia will be provided with sacks in which it will be possible to store grain in the open air under any weather conditions with temperatures ranging from -60 to +60 degrees centigrade.

The contract also provides for supplies of Brazilian fodder, maize, coffee, soya beans, cocoa, frozen poultry and pork, and other agricultural produce. In Russia Groupo Monteiro wishes to buy mineral fertilizers, coal, and possibly oil and equipment for hydroelectric stations.

According to one of its executives, the company is planning to make capital investments in Russia which at the first stage will amount to about $1bn [billion].

'Unambiguous' Georgian, Estonian Policy Expected

OW2209142592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1300 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The collegium of the RF [Russian Federation] Government at its Tuesday session in Moscow addressed the relations between Russia and Georgia in association with the continuing conflict in Abkhazia, as well as Russia's relations with Estonia. Head of the government press center, Gennadiy Shipitko, said in an interview for INTERFAX that Moscow's stance in regards to both republics will be "unambiguous and fairly resolute".

In the words of the spokesman for the Russian Government, Georgia received Russia's aspiration to resort only to political methods in settling the conflict in Abkhazia as a manifestation of "weakness, moreover as approval of its policy". In the words of Mr. Shipitko, all this requires "serious reconsideration of the methods of Russia's influence upon that region".

Russia's Acting Premier, Yegor Gaydar, who was also taking part in the session said that the Russian Federation intends "more insistently pose the issue of implementation of Moscow's agreements before the Georgian Government" regarding the conflict settlement in Abkhazia, first and foremost where it bears on the pullout of Georgian armed formations from the conflict zone to the negotiating positions.

As regards Estonia where 40 percent of the republic's population, mostly Russian-speaking residents, were deprived of their political rights, Mr. Shipitko said that it was "the first instance when the policy pursued by the Estonian Government manifested itself in such an apparent and unyielding form." In the meantime, he reminded that the Estonian politicians pledged not to infringe on the rights of the Russians residing in the republic. Yet, the government representative noted, "politicians are known first and foremost by their deeds".

In the words of Gennadiy Shipitko, the cabinet cannot remain impartial to the plight of the Russian-speaking population. He did not exclude the possibility that Russia would consider its commitments regarding the supply of oil, gas and other goods to Estonia.

Faction Says Abkhazia Violating Moscow Accords

LD2109200692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1931 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvrtishviliy]

[Text] Moscow September 21 TASS—A group of deputies belonging to the parliamentary faction "Democratic Abkhazia" has accused Abkhazian authorities for violating agreements reached in Moscow to settle the armed conflict in the republic.

Abkhazian Parliamentary Speaker Vladislav Ardzinba and his supporters are ignoring the Moscow accords and are violating a cease-fire agreement, said Vakhtang Kolbaya, member of the Executive Board of the Abkhazian Parliament.

Kolbaya called the presence of fighters of the Confederation of the Highland Nations and Russian soldiers in Abkhazia as one of the main destabilising factors. He blamed the armed confrontation on the Abkhazian Parliament and called for its disbandment.

Political Issues

Rutskoy, Chechen Representatives Meet in Moscow

OW2209200692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and representatives of the Republic of Chechen met in Moscow on Tuesday [22 September]. The working meeting, which lasted over three hours, was conducted in what was called a constructive atmosphere.

At the center of attention was the issue of mutual political and economic relations between Russia and the Republic of Chechen. The situation in the Caucasus and the possible monitoring of hot spots in the region were also discussed.

The participants agreed that the first item before the bilateral commission should be the necessity of a continuing dialogue aimed at assisting the resolution of forthcoming problems.

Vice Premier Confers With Dagestan Leaders

PM2209135192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 1

[Leonid Timofeyev report: "Georgiy Khizha Has Returned from Dagestan. Resolute Mood"]

[Text] Russian Vice Premier G. Khizha has completed a trip to Dagestan. Speaking in Makhachkala, he pointed out that it has not been possible to make any real progress in settling the Abkhaz conflict. ITAR-TASS reports that the vice premier held talks there with Magamedali Magamedov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Dagestan, and Abdurazak Mirzabekov, chairman of the republic Council of Ministers. Leaders of Dagestan's defense enterprises also participated in the meeting, at which a package of problems concerning not only this republic but also the entire North Caucasus was discussed.

Georgiy Khizha pointed out that the Russian Federation leadership is quite resolute about stabilizing the situation in Abkhazia. Despite the fact that the conflict is an internal matter for Georgia, Russia, he continued, will not tolerate a violation of human rights and "does not intend to accept a flouting of its own laws because its neighbors' laws are being flouted." What Georgiy Khizha had in mind was instances of armed formations penetrating Abkhazia from the territory of the North Caucasus. He also issued a reminder that the Georgian side is not taking sanctions against the persons guilty of firing on a Russian hydrofoil and of other crimes, although their names are known.

The question of constructing transport communications to bypass Chechniya was also discussed at the meeting. According to its participants, the need for such construction is dictated by the fact that trains and vehicles passing across Chechen territory are subjected to robberies.

At the same time the parliament and government of the Chechen Republic have declared that persons of Chechen nationality are being persecuted and mocked on the territory of republics in the Caucasus. An appeal to the leadership and peoples of Adygea, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, North Ossetia, and Georgia, published by the CHECHEN-PRESS agency, states that even acts of physical violence against citizens of Chechniya are taking place in these regions.

The statement contains an appeal to governments, Supreme Soviets, and peoples "not to allow their leaders to destroy the Caucasian fraternity that is being created and to keep them from blindly following Russia's colonial course, which leads to the annihilation of the peoples of the Caucasus by their own hands."

Daily Surveys Yeltsin, Parliament Competition

MK2209083092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Sep 92 p 1

[Article by Vera Kuznetsova under the "Russian Supreme Soviet" rubric: "It Seems That Yeltsin Is Finally Breaking With Parliament by Taking Precisely the Opposite Path to That Taken by Gorbachev"]

[Text] Yeltsin is down on the agenda to make a speech at the Fifth Session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, which opens today. But it will hardly happen on the first day. The president, having exhausted his eloquence, would find no advantage in listening five minutes later to speeches calling for his resignation by means of the convening of an extraordinary congress. Better to let the deputies make the first move (an initiative, as we know, that can be punished) and then...see what the situation is.

It seems that parliament remains of interest to Russians only insofar as it is on the parliamentary battlefield that the fight against the president is taking place. It seems that Yeltsin, in breaking with parliament, is increasingly repeating Gorbachev's path—but for directly opposite reasons. It seems that our politics, too, have begun to repeat the law of the pendulum well known in politics. In place of the conservative government of Gorbachev came Yeltsin's reform team. And already its place is being eyed...but the Russian parliament will tell us this today.

The president and the parliament. The tame Supreme Soviet of Gorbachev. And the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in opposition to Yeltsin.

In 1988 Gorbachev began with amendments to the USSR Constitution. But he was in no hurry to change it completely. On the contrary, it was parliament which was able through a handful of democrats to incline public opinion in favor of a new Basic Law.

Yeltsin has tried to adopt a fundamentally new constitution. But parliament has hitherto denied him this, and evidently does not intend to change this tactic in the future, not concealing here the fact that the old communist constitution is its trump card.

Gorbachev's government needed the Central Bank in order to print money for party-state expenditure. And the bank's

transfer to Supreme Soviet control looked like an attempt to avert the destruction of the ruble.

The Central Bank does not belong to Yeltsin's government and does much damage when it increases the emission of money despite Gaydar's policy of restraint. Meanwhile parliament is calmly developing its own "economic policy to spite the president," let us say, not without Gerashchenko's assistance.

Gorbachev boldly articulated the phrase "private property" only at closed sessions of his former party. The timid attempts of the USSR Supreme Soviet on this score were immediately nipped in the bud.

When Yeltsin addressed the body of deputies on private ownership of land, the congress and the Supreme Soviet in their majority put on an impermissible expression. Even today we are left with it. But, evidently, the same thing awaits us in relation to the vouchers, too. However populist the voucher undertaking looks, it is a step toward privatization. A first step.... And it is disadvantageous to the reactionary factions of parliament for the understandable reason: The market is disappearing from under their feet. And it will be controlled not by the deputies but by a law—albeit a law conceived by them.

And so, Yeltsin will reach no amicable agreement with the body of deputies. And the Russian president's Cheboksary efforts aimed at maintaining an albeit weak balance of powers looks likely to be assessed merely as history. Parliament (under the softest option prepared by the opposition to Yeltsin and openly declared by the leader of the "New Generation" [Smena] group Andrey Golovin) will bide its time until 1 December, when Yeltsin's additional powers come to an end. An end without any fuss. And an end to the presidential republic as well. How will Yeltsin respond? Of course, he will not be able—and indeed he will not want—to dissolve parliament: The rumors about this have been very much exaggerated. But he is fully able to distribute vouchers to Russians and submit a new constitution to a referendum....

PRAVDA Urges Government, Opposition Contacts

PM2209144392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 2

[Nikolay Kozhanov report: "Before Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session. Confrontation 'On All Counts'?"]

[Text] From the way that the political atmosphere in the country is daily becoming more dense, hardly anyone is left in any doubt about the nature of the upcoming session of the Russian parliament.

It is symptomatic that at the latest news conference of the opposition parliamentary bloc "Russian Unity," which holds solid positions in the Supreme Soviet, not one point—literally not a single point!—came to light in the extensive list of problems touched upon, on which the viewpoints of the government and the opposition have drawn closer together in any way at all, not to mention coinciding.

No less symptomatic was a document made public there, in which the opposition forces of both a "left" and a "right" trend unite on grounds of decisive opposition to the present course of the government and the president. Hardly anyone is surprised anymore that a unified position has been taken by those parties and movements which one year ago stood irreconcilably on different sides of the political barricades and that many of them were a real mainstay of the present regime and helped it to accede to power. Anxiety for the country, for its integrity, and for the fate of a people thoughtlessly cast into the crucible of one more social "remelt" has made the constitutional democrats and the communists, moderates and radicals, postpone their differences until better times.

What of the government? It cannot fail to see how rapidly the social base of the forces that support it is contracting. Whence such obsession with a strategy which has clearly failed, such arrogant disregard for any attempts to enter into a dialogue—attempts which the opposition has made repeatedly? Or is this a symptom of shock, of despair caused by constant "pricks" and by failures in domestic and foreign policy?

Be that as it may, it will hardly benefit the matter if the upcoming session boils down to another trial of strength between the government and the parliamentary opposition. Is it really still not clear to some people that neither "great" nor "small" upheavals and shake-ups in the upper echelons, which have a "knock-on" effect on down the line, as the saying goes, will feed the country or stabilize its economy and its social being? That confrontation "on all counts," which resembles a dialogue of the deaf, is fruitless and destructive. That for the government the session represents, maybe, the last chance of finding points of contact, of finally making constructive contact with the opposition, trying to listen to and understand each other, and weighing and verifying all possible paths and measures of national salvation.

All other paths lead into the abyss.

Ministry Denies Khasbulatov Surveillance

OW2309105292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Security Ministry has denied the statement by leader of the Russian National Congress Aleksandr Sterligov to the effect that Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov is under this ministry's surveillance. On Wednesday, the Security Ministry's Public Relations Center circulated a statement which says that such an assertion is groundless and absurd. The Security Ministry works under the parliament's and procurator-general's strict control, the document goes.

The statement also says that "it is not Sterligov's first attempt to discredit the leaders of the Security Ministry". However, he has never confirmed his accusations with any documents, it goes on to say. The Security Ministry has also

denied Sterligov's allegations that he is under the surveillance of the KGB's 7th Department.

Democratic Party Leader Urges Farming Porfolio

OW2109134492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1047 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of Russia's Democratic Party [DP] Nikolay Travkin has spoken in favor of instituting in the RF [Russian Federation] cabinet the post of vice-premier in charge of agricultural affairs. Addressing a seminar of local administrators in the Shakhov area of the Moscow region on Monday [21 September], Mr. Travkin voiced the view that a land reform could succeed only "through a clear-cut state policy, credit support, and unbiased legislation interpretation".

The DP leader, who heads the Shakhov area's administration, believes it's expedient to apply the Russian president's decree on extra powers for the administration to farm regions across Russia. This is essential because the decree entitles the administration to select the forms and methods of economic reform, primarily in the sphere of privatization, said Travkin.

He regards privatization through vouchers as ineffective. "The voucher is being offered one way by the government and has only a political meaning"—Travkin remarked. In his opinion, privatization auctions are a hidden tax on the population since "the buyer of an enterprise is concerned with how to make the greatest return on his money in the shortest possible time by hiking prices".

Rutskoy To Insist on Agroindustrial Bloc

OW2209231092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1847 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy has said that he will insist on forming an agroindustrial bloc in the government. It should include ministries and agencies, whose activity is connected with farming. The Cabinet dismissed that model three months ago.

The Vice-President told IF [INTERFAX] that it would be impossible to carry out agroindustrial reforms without that bloc, because nothing would work. He had discussed that question with acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. A final decision is to be made by the Cabinet of Ministers on September 29.

Rutskoy said Nikolay Travkin was one of the likely candidates for the Vice-Premier for Agriculture. Travkin does not rule out the possibility he may take that post, but says he is not the best candidate.

Opposition Catalogues Cure for Russia's Ills

PM2209155392 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Sep 92 p 1

["Political Declaration by Left-Wing and Right-Wing Opposition" passed to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA editorial office by Political Council of Joint Opposition]

[Text] Our motherland stands on the verge of political and economic collapse. There is an impending threat of hunger, unemployment, civil war, and a loss of real opportunities for us, our children, and subsequent generations to occupy a worthy place among the peoples of the planet.

The political and national tragedy of the Russian State, transformed into the USSR and now divided up into appanage principalities by its ruling cliques, is the prime cause of the misfortune that has befallen the country.

The chief responsibility for ruining Russia lies not with interchangeable government teams but with the president of the Russian Federation, whose political orders they carry out. His desire for full autocracy lay at the basis of the Belovezhskiy compact, which was a direct violation of the oath that he made on taking up his post to observe the RSFSR Constitution, and became the main tool for dismembering the unified state. A consequence of this course is the total destruction of the country's economy and the openly antinational union with those international forces, which, like the Russian Federation president, see the elimination of the unified and strong Russian State as the basis for their unlimited power. As a result of these actions state power has been turned from an organ to defend the national interests of Russians virtually into a regime of occupation, which has brought Russia to a new fratricidal war.

The economic reforms proclaimed by the Russian Federation president are just as much lies as his election promises were. Their real substance boils down not to developing the Russian economy but to destroying the state's industrial potential and reducing it to the role of a raw materials appendage of industrially developed countries and a source of financial handouts to nourish the regime. Therefore the removal from power, by constitutional means, of Yeltsin's antinational and corrupt ruling clique is the chief condition for restoring the national economy and implementing truly democratic transformations in society.

The need to adopt political decisions on the scale of the whole country without delay is dictated by the following circumstances:

The denouncement of the 1922 Union Treaty is a political falsification, for that treaty lost its force in 1924 with the adoption of the first USSR Constitution;

The 1977 USSR Constitution and, consequently, the unified statehood of the USSR remain in legal force, because changes to the Constitution are empowered by law only if adopted by the Congress of USSR People's Deputies, and the republics' secession from the Union—only on the basis of its legislation;

The existing USSR Constitution cannot be executed at present as a consequence of the overthrow of the USSR's legitimate organs of power by the coup d'etat of August-December 1991 and the de facto usurpation of the Union's state power by the Russian Federation's ruling clique—the initiator of that coup.

The purpose of the coup d'etat was the anticonstitutional division of the state contrary to the will of the majority of the country's population and the establishment of absolute rule by Yeltsin's regime and kindred regimes—essentially pseudodemocratic and antinational dictatorships.

The state's survival and the rebirth of our motherland as a great world power cannot be underpinned either by the purely "edict" system of economic management, which has exhausted itself, or by purely "capitalist" market relations after the 19th-century model, which can create only anarchy and ruin under conditions of the national economy's monopoly structure, which was created over decades, and of the Soviet traditions of social production.

The country needs a path of a rational combination of efficient forms of state management of the economy and economic regulators which ensure equitable competition among different forms of ownership and the relative independence of society's economic structures geared to national interests and priorities, including regional ones. This is a path of the gradual transformation of the established social institutions based on the expression of citizens' will, not a path of their complete demolition, which deprives the people of their chief means of expression and of protection of their national interests—the state.

The consolidation of the opposition is primarily necessary to implement **emergency anticrisis measures**. Their specific substance will depend on the degree to which Russia's national economy has been ruined by the Yeltsin regime and will be based on the following theses:

1. The growth of social production and public consumption in the country is the priority of state economic policy. The balanced nature of the budget can be achieved only if these factors are balanced; financial policy and money circulation must work to ensure them. The state is obliged to create conditions for the revival of the base sectors of the economy and the successful working of Russian enterprises, particularly those producing consumer goods, and not to bring them to the verge of bankruptcy by its actions.

2. The disrupted ties among enterprises within the framework of the country's unified national economic complex must be restored. For this it is necessary to recreate federal organs of concerted economic management. The state must ensure the stability of taxes and of the prices of necessities and an absence of customs barriers on the country's territory.

3. To ensure the population's proper living standard, the immediate aim of the anticrisis measures will be to restore the correlation between consumer prices and wages at the level prior to the coup d'etat of August-December 1991.

4. The program of "wholesale" privatization, being implemented under conditions of a catastrophic production slump and a drop in living standards, is aimed at depriving the overwhelming majority of the country's citizens of public ownership "on legal grounds," and so it must be stopped without delay. It must be replaced by a package of interrelated measures to demonopolize and destatize sectors of the national economy, implemented under conditions of economic stability and ensuring the citizens' unimpeded selection of forms of ownership—public, collective, or private.

These measures must be the object of long-term state investment and socioeconomic programs adopted by the top representative organs of people's power.

5. All forms of agrarian production must be the priority object of state investments and preferential credit aimed at ensuring growth in agricultural output in the country. The question of land ownership, public or private, and of the forms of its use, possession, and disposal must be resolved at the state and regional level, in accordance with the people's will, proceeding from the established traditions of economic management.

6. Foreign economic policy must be based on efficient state regulation, providing for the priority supply of food and consumer goods to the population and the national economy's provision with raw materials, energy sources, and equipment. The terms of treaties and contracts concluded by the ruling regime which damage Russia's national interests must be made public and revised. Ruble convertibility can be implemented only on the achievement of economic stabilization and be introduced in stages, as the positions of the Russian economy on the world market strengthen.

7. If Yeltsin's policy of ruining the national economy is maintained, the country could find itself faced in the next few months with the need to introduce tough measures of state distribution aimed at eliminating the threat of mass hunger and complete economic ruin.

In the political sphere emergency anticrisis measures must ensure:

the restoration of the country's territorial integrity defined by the USSR Constitution, the unity of its Armed Forces, and the protection of citizens' rights, safety, and property;

the creation of conditions for the democratic choice of its state system by the country's entire population;

the realization of genuine self-determination for all, primarily for those who wish to live in a unified country, promoting the creation of a real system of people's power on the basis of the Constitution;

freedom for its inhabitatns to choose the positions of particular political forces and movements with regard to the future, and opposition to the imposition on the country of new dictatorships which could bring it still worse disasters.

The future fate of the unified state can be determined only by the people expressing their will. No political force in the country can predetermine the state's future. This is a task

for a plenipotentiary gathering of people's representatives elected for this purpose by direct, secret, and equal ballot. It is called upon to resolve the question of the form of rule in the country and to determine the status of its territories, including the question of self-determination, i.e. to recreate the state's integrity.

The opposition declares that it regards our homeland as a great power. It has its own historical, economic, spiritual, and geopolitical interests, which determine the substance and aims of **foreign policy**. The government, which is called upon to uphold these interests, is obliged to revise or denounce all interstate treaties, agreements, and conventions concluded during the Gorbachev and Yeltsin period, if they harm the international position of our country and of its traditional friends and allies.

The 1975 Helsinki agreements remain the basis that defined the postwar realities in Europe and the principles of interstate relations, by which the future Russian Government intends to be guided.

From the moment it accedes to power by constitutional means the opposition will begin restoring the system of **state social guarantees**, which were an inalienable part of the way of life of all our country's citizens during recent decades. The rights to work, housing, rest, education, and health care will be guaranteed by corresponding legislation, social policy, and economic programs. A package of measures will be adopted without delay to prevent the country's population from dying out, for the state cannot be revived when there is a threat of its people's degeneration.

The state will take over the funding of basic science, higher schooling, and promising applied developments. It will promote the development of all forms of scientific collaboration and flexible ties among scientific, educational, and production collectives.

In the sphere of culture, priority will be given to the country's multinational assets in their entirety and to supporting and disseminating world cultural values. The commercialization of culture is incompatible with the spiritual traditions of Russia's peoples. This is an historical impasse, and the government will oppose the demoralization of society by the mass cultural media. Unions and associations of cultural figures will receive state support with a guarantee of complete noninterference in the affairs of creative organizations.

The state guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and equal access to the mass media for all the country's citizens and their associations, as well as fullness and trustworthiness in the work of the press, radio, and television at the statewide and regional level.

The fate of each people is linked with certain faiths. The state pledges to support the traditional confessions of the country's peoples with complete noninterference, guaranteed by the law, in the churches' internal affairs.

The opposition has united in the name of **national-state salvation**. Its basic task is to ensure a nationwide, representative, and constitutional means for all the country's citizens to express their will in respect of its sociopolitical system, the principles of interethnic relations, and the legal status of the individual and the state.

We believe in the righteousness of our aims.

We are convinced that our country was and will remain a great power.

We are sure that our people will emerge still stronger from the discord into which they have been drawn by false prophets and will be able consciously and freely to realize their hopes and ideals.

[Signed] USSR People's Deputy V.I. Alksnis, member of the Permanent Presidium of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies; Russian People's Deputy M.G. Astafyev, chairman of the Constitutional Democratic Party (Party of People's Freedom); Russian People's Deputy S.N. Baburin, chairman of the Russian National Union and coordinator of the "Rossiya" deputies' faction; V.P. Biryulin, chairman of the "Russian Idea" Association and cochairman of the Union of the Russian People; E.F. Volodin, deputy chairman of the Council of People's Patriotic Forces of Russia; Russian People's Deputy S.P. Goryacheva; V.I. Gusev, secretary of the board of the Russian Federation Writers Union; N.I. Doroshenko, chief editor of the newspaper MOSKOVSKIY LITERATOR; I.I. Yepishcheva, chairman of the "Dignity" Women's Council; G.A. Zyuganov, chairman of the Council of People's Patriotic Forces of Russia and cochairman of the duma of the Russian National Assembly [Russkiy natsionalnyy sobor]; V.A. Ivanov, chairman of the Russian Party of National Revival; V.I. Ilyukhin, chairman of the Commission To Investigate M.S. Gorbachev's Anticonstitutional, Antistate Activity; Russian People's Deputy V.B. Isakov, coordinator of the "Russian Unity" opposition bloc of deputies' factions; Russian People's Deputy I.V. Konstantinov, chairman of the board of the Russian National Assembly [Rossiyskoye narodnoye sobraniye]; R.I. Kosolapov, member of the Russian Communist Workers Party Central Committee; USSR People's Deputy A.N. Krayko, member of the Permanent Presidium of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies; S.Yu. Kunyayev, secretary of the board of the Russian Federation Writers Union; Ye.A. Lukyanova, member of the Coordinating Council of Opposition Forces of Moscow's M.V. Lomonosov State University; N.I. Lysenko, chairman of the National Republican Party of Russia; A.M. Makashov, chairman of the duma of the All-Russian Assembly; A.S. Mitrofanov, chief editor of ROS-INFORMBYURO and member of the Coordinating Council of the Russian National Union; Russian People's Deputy N.A. Pavlov, coordinator of the "Rossiya" deputies' faction; A.A. Prokhanov, chief editor of DEN, newspaper of the spiritual opposition; Russian People's Deputy G.V. Sayenko, coordinator of the "Russian Unity" opposition bloc of deputies' factions; V.M. Smirnov, president of the P.V. Struve Foundation; A.N. Sterligov, cochairman of the duma of the Russian National Assembly [Russkiy natsionalnyy sobor] and chairman of the movement "Officers for the Homeland's Revival"; S.N. Terekhov, chairman of the "Officers Union"; M.G. Titov, member of the Coordinating Council

of the "Working Russia" Movement; USSR People's Deputy S.Z. Umalatova, chairman of the Permanent Presidium of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies; O.A. Finko, chief editor of YURIDICHESKAYA GAZETA; A.A. Shabanov, cochairman of the Coordinating Council of the Association of Left-Wing Patriotic Forces of Moscow's M.V. Lomonosov State University. Moscow, 21 September 1992.

The Political Council of the Joint Opposition passed to the editorial office this political "Declaration of the Left-Wing and Right-Wing Opposition," signed by a group of Russian people's deputies, representatives of parties, movements, and organizations. The declaration is open for signing and support by all opposition forces.

Economic Issues

Bank Official Blames Ruble's Fall on Neighbors

LD2209161492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1455 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Despite the difficult situation on the foreign exchange market, the Russian Central Bank is keeping to its former practice of fixing a single ruble rate according to the results of the trading on the Moscow Interbank Foreign Currency Exchange. This was stated by Vladimir Smirnov, deputy director of the International Cooperation Department of the Central Bank. The dollar rate made another leap in the latest trading and reached 241 rubles. Commenting on this situation, Vladimir Smirnov stated that he considered the main reason to be the flood of rubles from neighboring CIS countries.

Finance Ministry Prepares Report on Food Prices

LD2209194892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—The present state purchasing prices for grain are, on average, 23 times higher than in 1991. This hike will push higher prices for flour, cereals, mixed fodder and consequently for foodstuffs.

The price for one kilogramme of white bread will possibly rise to 37 roubles by the end of this year, says an analytical report compiled by the Russian Finance Ministry, which was received by the ITAR-TASS News Agency on Tuesday [22 September].

The ministry's report contains estimated average free prices for staple foods in Russia by the end of the year: beef—160-220 roubles per kilo, pork—140-180 roubles, milk (3.5 per cent fat content)—15-19 roubles, butter—225-280 roubles, vegetable oil—57-68 roubles, sugar—65-76 roubles, 10 eggs—50-62 roubles, white bread—37 roubles per kilo, rye bread—15 roubles.

The document notes that state procurement organisations purchase grain for the average price of 11,000 roubles per tonne. The level of profitability for producers varies between 110 and 430 per cent, depending on grain species, and averages 318 per cent.

These figures show that agricultural producers want to insure themselves against future inflation and to accumulate funds for the 1993 sowing campaign: the production cost of this year's grain crop amounted to 2,500 roubles per tonne. Costs for the 1993 sowing campaign may top 5,000 roubles per tonne.

The report says that the grain price hike resulted in the higher cost for mixed fodder and is a reason for the deteriorating economic situation in animal husbandry.

Poultry yards and livestock farms operating fully on purchased mixed fodder were among the hardest hit.

As a result of a sharp price rise for grain entailing more expensive mixed fodder, losses at those enterprises will amount to 30 or 50 per cent, taking into account the present subsidies for meat and lubricants.

The document notes that it will be necessary to appropriate another 35 billion roubles to ensure normal conditions for the operation of the animal husbandry complex.

Ministries Forecast 1993 Food Import Levels

OW2209150092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1301 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Economics and Agriculture Ministries have given the government their forecast for food imports for 1993, according to which the consumption of basic foodstuffs in Russia will remain at the present level.

Grain imports are expected to be reduced by about 30% as compared to this year owing to a better harvest in Russia and will amount to some 14.5m [million] tonnes. Another 3m tonnes are to be received from other republics of the former USSR. Purchases of protein-rich fodder are to double in volume, making it possible to make more efficient use of fodder grain.

Imports of meat products are to be increased in order to keep their consumption at the present level. Vegetable oil, sugar, and baby food are to be imported in the same quantity as this year, whereas purchases of tobacco, tea, and cocoa are to go up.

The overall cost of the food and raw materials for the food industry to be imported next year is estimated at nearly $8.5bn [billion].

Federal, Regional Grain Funds Formed

OW2309113692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0955 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government defined the volume of the federal fund of grain being formed out of the 1992 harvest

totalling 9.5 million [figure as received] tons. The remaining grain (approximately 15 million tons) will be delivered to regional funds.

Commencing this year Russia introduces a two-level system of grain supply. The local authorities in the regions where the grain is being grown procure the grain from the producers and take the responsibility for satisfying the requirements of the consumers on their territories. Only surplus of grain is delivered to the federal fund which is to be redistributed to satisfy the needs of the army, large cities, and other territories producing not adequate quantity of grain.

According to the government's resolution, 1.4 million tons of grain from the federal fund are to be delivered to Moscow, 1.2—to Sverdlov province. The gross volume of deliveries must constitute more than 20 million tons and import deliveries will compensate the needed 11 million tons.

'No Relief' From Communal Services Boost

LD2209181892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Kleshkov]

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—The 50-percent increase of communal services' prices envisaged by a presidential decree will bring no relief to the Russian housing-communal system, chairman of the Russian Housing-Communal System Committee Valeriy Dolgov told ITAR-TASS, commenting on the situation in city economies.

On the contrary, the huge price discrepancy will further increase, taking into account the doubled oil prices. One should also take into account the local executive authorities will hardly raise the rent in the near future.

"If we decide to equal the communal services' price to their prime cost, an average family will have to spend about 70 percent of its income to pay it. It is clear we cannot do it now."

"Thus, the housing-communal system will continue to use state allocations, the need for which is mounting alongside the rise of energy carrier prices", said Dolgov.

It would be now expedient to pass over to another form of state support—to allocate money to families depending on their income, instead of the housing-communal services. However, the elaboration of this idea is on its initial stage and related to many problems, including a detailed estimation of the consumer basket volume and declaration of incomes.

At the same time, the increase of energy carrier prices will not considerably influence the current preparation of the city economy for winter. In various Russian regions it goes on differently.

"We hope Muscovites will not face unsolvable problems, as their housing-communal economy is on the same level. Certainly, some of the city thermal systems are in poor condition. Still, staffers of the Moscow communal services are ready to quickly eliminate any malfunctions in case they occur," said Dolgov.

At the same time, the committee chairman "is concerned over the situation in Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Samara and some other Russian cities, where, according to the estimations, thermal deficit will be present this winter.

"A number of populated localities have poor thermal systems, and problems with water supply. That is why the committee has toughened control over the final preparations for winter and the beginning of cold season in these areas", he noted.

Government Owes Central Bank 1.2 Billion Rubles

OW2209220092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government's debt to the Russian Central Bank (RCB) amounted to 1.284 trillion rubles in September, 1992, Central Bank Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev said in an INTERFAX interview. Of that sum, 822.5 billion rubles were transferred to the RCB in order to cover the Russian state budget deficit.

"The government's indebtedness to the Central Bank", said Mr. Khandruyev, is climbing at a very rapid rate. Since the beginning of 1992 the state debt has risen by nine times, and since July 1, 1992 it has increased by 2.6 times. According to Mr. Khandruyev, such increases in the state debt means the government "is financing its expenditures at the expense of the state debt with growing frequency". "The government takes a significant part of the credits as long-term loans—for up to five years and with very low interest rates, up to 10% annually," Khandruyev emphasized.

(A detailed interview with the Russian Central Bank Deputy Chairman, Aleksandr Khandruyev, concerning current RCB policy will be published tomorrow in the morning edition of INTERFAX News.)

Supreme Court Upholds Federal Budget Payments

LD2209135492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0853 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Frankovskiy]

[Text] Ivanovo September 22 TASS—The Russian Supreme Court has confirmed the illegality of a decision passed by an extraordinary session of the Ivanovo regional council to suspend payments to the federal budget.

This was the top judiciary body's reaction to the ruling of the regional court, which heard the protest of the region's procurator-general. The dispute began last May. Several dozen weaving and bleaching factories then came to a standstill in the region due to lack of cotton and money. The light industry was threatened by massive unemployment. Moreover, there was a crisis of the regional budget which is made up 67 percent of taxes from textile enterprises. This is

the reason for the disputed decision of the regional council. Many people's deputies still believe they were acting in accordance with the powers vested in them. Hence, it is not ruled out that the case will have to be decided by the Constitutional Court.

Moscow Views Demonopolization Measures

OW2209225292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Issues relating to the program of demonopolization of the economy of the Russian capital by 1992-93 will be considered at Tuesday's [22 September] session of the Moscow government. The program is part of a plan for the reform of the city's economy; its goal is the establishment of a free market for goods and services. Legislation has been passed calling for the establishment of an advisory council for dealing with demonopolization. The council will be created under the auspices of the mayor's office, and will include the heads of various municipal organizations, independent of the jurisdiction of their individual departments.

The government of Moscow has also adopted legislation regarding the completion of an agreement between the city's unions and its government. The legislation stipulates that there will be a provision guaranteeing that the city Department of Employment will establish an employment fund. The fund will be allocated 478 million rubles, including 319 million earmarked for expenditure. The fund has provided unemployment benefits for some 11,453 people, and has spent 15.5 million rubles in an effort to create new employment opportunities. The city's Department of Labor and Employment has found jobs for 39,600 of the 53,400 people who applied in the first half of the year. These and other measures are being adopted in dealing with issues relating to employment.

Text of Titkin Memorandum on Privatization

PM2209142992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 92 First Edition p 2

["Text" of Russian Industry Minister A. Titkin memorandum to Yeltsin followed by "Own Information" report: "No Differences. No Agreement Either"]

[Text] "Disagreement over privatization has intensified in the Russian Government"—that was the headline of an INTERFAX report on 9 September. In particular, it provides extracts from a memorandum to the Russian president from Industry Minister Aleksandr Titkin.

But the Industry Ministry thinks that the headline supplied by the author of the report distorts the essential nature of the processes taking place in the government and the basic sense of the minister's memorandum to Boris Yeltsin.

To enable the reader to get an idea of the Industry Ministry's position we are publishing the full text of the minister's memorandum to the president:

"Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich!

"I believe that the Russian State Property Committee's policy of turning industrial enterprises into joint-stock companies and privatizing them, is fundamentally flawed. Irrespective of its declared objectives, it is destabilizing industrial production, disrupting technological links, and fragmenting industry. It is geared to preventing sectoral ministries, above all the Russian Industry Ministry, from managing the process of industrial restructuring and uncontrolled, spontaneous collectivization. The decisions prepared by the State Property Committee on the commercialization of state enterprises do not give the Industry Ministry the opportunity to carry our specific work on forming technical and economic systems out of high-technology sectoral and intersectoral blocs and creating lead companies (technological corporations, holding companies, and so on) that have sufficient stability to be able to function in market economic conditions and are highly competitive in the world market. This is a particularly important state task, and unless it is solved, our country, with its dilapidated, structurally fragmented production, will end up a backwater not only in the world economy, but in world history.

"The State Property Committee is also conducting a policy even of depriving sectoral ministries of the leadership of those enterprises that remain—wholly or partially—state property, although this leadership, not only by economic methods, but by directives as well—is common practice in market-economy countries. Instead leadership of enterprises is being transferred to structures (above all the State Property Committee itself) which in present conditions are basically unable to manage enterprises with state capital competently enough and are unable to provide adequate protection for state interests in them or conduct a state industrial policy (for the formation and implementation of which sector management organs, above all the Industry Ministry, are responsible!)

"It seems to me that privatization is an end in itself for the State Property Committee and its implementation is increasingly being removed from the context of general economic transformations. It is my profound belief that the economic reform is not being conducted for the sake of privatization per se. On the contrary, privatization should serve the goals of the reform, above all stabilization and industrial production efficiency.

"Seeing that its policy is not welcomed by sector ministries, the State Property Committee is shaping it secretly, although everyone has to swallow the fruits of its labor. None of the recent decisions on questions of creating joint-stock companies and privatizing enterprises, including the decree of the Russian Federation president 'On Organizational Measures To Transform State Enterprises and Voluntary Associations of State Enterprises Into Joint-Stock Companies' and the 'Statute on the Commercialization of State Enterprises, While at the Same Time Turning Them Into Public Joint-Stock Companies,' was agreed with ministers in the course of preparation.

"In view of this I would consider it expedient that the questions I have raised be discussed at a closed session of the government attended by you. I would also ask you to

examine a draft decree 'On the particular case of the transformation of federally owned state enterprises and voluntary associaitons of state enterprises into joint-stock companies,' which is attached to my letter.

"[Signed] A.A. Titkin"

["Own Information" report follows]

The State Property Committee experts who scrutinized the text of the draft decree mentioned in the letter reached pessimistic conclusions. According to Olga Tankova, chief of the State Property Committee Commercial Administration, the "special" conditions for forming joint-stock companies in certain sectors that are proposed by the Industry Ministry draft will probably mean that the number of privatization checks distributed to the population will considerably exceed the supply of state enterprise shares. All the hopes pinned on "voucherization" will crumble. The checks will suddenly be devalued.

Treasury House Prepares Privatization Checks

LD2209174992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—The treasury printing house is now producing thousands of new privatisation cheques per minute. Every Russian citizen will soon get these securities. The first ten million cheques have already been printed. Specialists say that all the 152 million cheques will be supplied to the state by December.

"It took about three months to produce the first model of this cheque and to put it into mass production," director of the printery Leonid Smertin told journalists, who were invited to visit the printery. "The printing presses began working at full capacity only at the end of September. Five million cheques are now being printed every day. The printers have to work three shifts a day. The presses are not stopped even on Saturdays and on Sundays".

The treasury printing house was out of bounds for journalists for many long years. And not only for them. This is where money, various securities, lottery tickets and other official printed matter is produced. The enterprise is ranked "secret" or "top secret", along with such establishments as the gold depository and the diamond fund. But this time Smertin specially invited a group of journalists to visit it. They were shown the first privatisation cheques that came off the press there, which still smelled of fresh paint. These cheques will give every Russian a chance to take part in the privatisation of state property. They can be used to buy shares or property, belonging to enterprises. Specialists advise not to sell them right away. Their market price may fluctuate substantially during the first few months after they are issued, and they will remain valid until December 31, 1993.

The cheques can hardly be forged. They are protected against this in many ways, which are classified.

The two-hour stay at the printery was rounded off by a tour of two shops—the printing and end control departments.

MiG Plant Delays Privatization

OW2109211192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1852 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The staff of the Nizhny Novgorod Airplane-Building Amalgamation "Sokol" has given up privatization plans until May of next year. The amalgamation is manufacturing MiG-29 and MiG-31 fighters. The decision to postpone privatization came in order to enable opening of personal and collective privatization accounts for the purchase of the controlling shares.

Military & Scientific Issues

Kasatonov Said Named Navy Deputy Commander

OW2309135892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to non-official sources close to the Command of the Russian Navy Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Igor Kasatonov will be soon appointed deputy commander-in-chief of the Navy.

Press service of the Russian Navy has neither confirmed nor refuted this information.

At the beginning of August the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine met in Yalta and decided to establish a provisional joint command of the Black Sea Fleet; every appointment thereof, including that of the Commander himself are to be agreed upon. Naval bases will be administered jointly until 1995. In 3 years a separate agreement on the rest of the Fleet problems is to be signed.

New Main Military Inspector Kobets Profiled

PM2309130192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed profile of Army General Konstantin Ivanovich Kobets, Russian Federation Armed Forces main military inspector]

[Text] He was born in Kiev on 16 July 1939 and is a Russian.

He graduated from the Kiev Communications Command School in 1959.

He has held various command and engineering posts. After graduating from the Communications Command Academy in 1967, he served as battalion commander, regimental commander, and officer in charge of the combined arms army signals troops.

He graduated from the General Staff Service Military Academy in 1978 and was sent to the Far East where he held the posts of chief of the district's signals troops and deputy chief of staff of forces in the Far East.

Beginning in 1986 he was USSR Armed Forces first deputy chief of signal service, and from 1987 USSR Armed Forces chief of signal service, and deputy chief of General Staff.

In 1991-1992 he was chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] State Committee on Defense and Security, chairman of the RSFSR State Committee on Questions of Defense, RSFSR state counselor on defense, and beginning in September 1991 was simultaneously chairman of the Committee to Prepare and Implement the Military Reform.

He is a Russian Federation people's deputy.

He is a doctor of military sciences and a professor.

Deputy Defense Minister on Military Technology

OW2109105392 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by German Solomatin; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] Here is a report from the proving grounds of the combat engineering troops of the Russian Army near Moscow and an interview with Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy minister of defense of Russia.

[Solomatin] Cuts in the Army and development of a new concept for the Armed Forces of Russia present new tasks. It is essential to create new equipment, and models of it already exist, including remotely controlled minefield clearing machines and a completely unique mine handling machine. [Video shows Kokoshin with a group of officers viewing combat engineering equipment in operation]

But what is to be done with equipment that is already in use and plants that are starving for orders and are on the verge of coming to a standstill? If we take into consideration the low quality of road construction, electrical, and heating equipment produced by civilian plants and the critical need for this equipment, then one comes to a foregone conclusion.

The main thing now is not to decrease the production of this powerful equipment but to expand its output and direct it into the national economy. Road construction machines of this type can dig ditches through the tundra at the rate of 1,000 meters an hour, erect steel bridges, or assemble and put into operation a water distilling station, or provide electric power for geologists' or oil drilling workers' camps in a matter of hours. They can also do a lot more that was previously out of reach of the national economy. This necessitated the purchase abroad of single items for hard currency.

The demonstration of equipment of the Russian Army's combat engineering troops, held near Moscow, showed the entire capacity of the plants of the military industrial complex which are waiting for the placement of orders from civilian departments.

[Begin recording] [Kokoshin] As a rule the combat engineering troops' equipment is of a dual purpose. One of the main principles of the new military technology policy of the Russian Ministry of Defense is the all-around development of dual purpose technology, so that we are self-sufficent in modern equipment in the Army and at the same time, it can immediately go into parallel use in industry and in the country's national economy as a whole.

[Solomatin] Andrey Afanasyevich, you are the first civilian deputy minister of defense. Tell us please, how do you feel in this position?

[Kokoshin] Well, you know, this work is not very simple and is very labor intensive and tense. I work hand in hand with my military colleagues, with the minister of defense and with the deputies who are military men. The government adopted a decision recently under which the defense order for arms and military equipment was increased a little. I consider this to be an extremely important and necessary decision that will permit us to provide the recently established Russian Army with at least a minimal amount of new equipment, to realize those principles of the military technology policy that we have now placed at the basis of the construction of the Armed Forces, and, of course, to support our industry.

[Solomatin] Now another question. You used to work in the United States of America and Canada Institute and so naturally you are probably familiar with the same kind of U.S., British, and Canadian equipment. Tell us please, from your point of view, does the level of this equipment correspond with their models?

[Kokoshin] You know, there are quite a few unique examples here in which we have been ahead of a number of other countries for many years. I think it would be sufficient for you to see this equipment. In some areas we were lagging. But now we will be striving to eliminate this lag. Take robotics, for example. Although I must say that when I was graduating from the Moscow Bauman Higher Technical School in the sixties I remember that we were moving into the very forefront in the development of robotics. Some quite unique robots were being developed at the school at that time.

Now presently I think that the development of robotics for the Armed Forces is not just a strictly military technology task for us, it is also a very important task corresponding with the spirit of the new Army, the spirit of the new Army of the new democratic Russia. In the Armed Forces the value of human life must be placed above all. This is one of the main criteria that we consider when we supply equipment to the Armed Forces.

[Solomatin] Now I would like to bring you down to earth a little. What about the social conditions of the very same officers who command this equipment but live in huts?

[Kokoshin] Well, that is a special issue. The president and government have now taken a whole series of very important steps to increase social protection. Very great efforts are being made to provide housing. The president recently held a big conference with heads of administrations and is constantly paying very great attention to this issue.

Of course we understand that more must be done, but the country is in a very difficult situation. However, I think that obvious changes for the better have become apparent in this regard, although of course this is also one of the top priorities of the Ministry of Defense. It is not enough to receive funds from the government, it is important to use them in the most rational and effective way. This is our task, and if we do not cope with it, then we will be responsible, it will be our fault. [end recording]

I would like to add to this report and interview that if you are interested in this exhibition and you have any proposals to make to the Ministry of Defense, please contact the command of the Russian combat engineering troops and you will be given an opportunity to see this demonstration and select some models.

Servicemen's Union Sues Defense Minister

LD2209180792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—The Independent Union of Serviceman (IUS) has filed a suit with the Russia's Procurator-General's Office against General of the Army Pavel Grachev, the Russian Federation's minister of defence.

At the same time the IUS and another 16 main trade unions of the Federation applied to President Boris Yeltsin with a request to prevent the Defence Ministry leadership from banning the IUS and protect IUS members from a forcible discharge from the Armed Forces.

The IUS plaint note has it that the defence minister ignores any contacts with the IUS and is unwilling to hold talks on the conclusion on a collective bargaining agreement between the IUS and the Defence Ministry, which, in the opinion of the plaintiffs, is a breach of the Russian Federation law "on collective bargaining contracts and agreements".

According to the IUS Presidium, the Military Command at the local level, upon learning the defence minister's attitude, began to suggest that officers who are IUS members either withdraw from the IUS or get their discharge.

Servicemen want to enjoy the fruits of democracy which they defend. The major gain of democracy is the servicemen's right to unite into non-political organisations outside the Armed Forces structure and to work there when off duty, Lieutenant Commander Andrey Goptar, IUS deputy chairman, told ITAR-TASS.

He pointed out that the IUS, which was instituted in February this year and registered by the Russian Ministry of Justice, upholds primarily the social rights and interests of career servicemen, helps them economically and does not break any laws of the Russian Federation or disobeys Military Command orders.

Thus, the IUS organises the advanced training of commissioned and warrant officers, promotes the provision of land for them and the establishment of farms. The IUS in no way aspires to interfere with troop control but intends to seek social justice and identify instances of the embezzlement of military equipment, protectionism and corruption in the Armed Forces, Goptar said.

Similar unions exist in practically all European Armies. They are united into the European Organisation of Military Associations (Euromil). One of the military unions in the German Army, Hifheuserbund, has been in existence for about 200 years.

Cosmos-2210 Launched for Scientific Research

LD2309082892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0748 GMT 23 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent from the flight control center]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep—Another artificial earth satellite, Cosmos-2210, was launched from Plesetsk cosmodrome by a Soyuz carrier rocket on 22 September.

The satellite carries scientific apparatus designated for the continuation of space research.

The satellite has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution, 89.7 minutes; apogee, 380 km; perigee, 173 km; orbital inclination, 67.2 degrees.

Besides scientific apparatus, the satellite carries a radio system for the precise measurement of orbital elements and a radiotelemetry system for transmitting to earth data about the work of the instruments and scientific apparatus.

Supreme Soviet

Fifth Supreme Soviet Session Continues in Moscow

Gaydar 'Has No Intention of Resigning'

LD2209175692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet Presidium did not include in the agenda yesterday the issue of the report by parliamentary Speaker Khasbulatov. Deputy Bella Denisenko raised this issue at the session today, but the deputies turned the proposal down. Not long before this decision Bella Denisenko still hoped the deputies would make the right decision.

[Begin Denisenko recording] Things that are happening now within the parliament and all the actions of Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov testify to the fact that he would like to establish his dictatorship in the near future. [end recording]

One more event has taken place in the corridors of the session. Deputies from the opposition still are generating ideas about how to overthrow the government, but after his speech, Yegor Gaydar stated in the corridors today that he has no intention of resigning.

Gaydar: Troops in Baltics 'Hostages'

OW2209191592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1727 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "At present our troops in the Baltic states are hostages and nobody but we ourselves are interested to take them out of those conditions with which they will be faced in any case", the government's head Yegor Gaydar said on Tuesday [22 September] at the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet speaking on the relations with Lithuania and answering a question put by a member of the Committee on foreign affairs and foreign economic relations, Gureyev, in respect to the lawfulness of the Russian-Lithuanian agreements signed on September 8.

Monday [21 September] this committee decided to propose to President Yeltsin to postpone signing of a treaty "confirming these agreements" as according to the committee's members they contradict with Russia's interests. Deputy Gureyev, in particular, declared that the term of forces withdrawal envisaged by the agreements and scheduled for August 31, 1993 is nothing but a groundless concession and rules of behavior of the Russian troops described in the agreements "practically do not differ from rules for prisoners".

Gaydar pointed out that the terms of forces withdrawal from Lithuania were coordinated with the Russian Defense Ministry.

'Massive Attack' Against Government

LD2309085392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839 GMT 23 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 23 TASS—A massive attack was launched on the government today at the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which continued to discuss the report delivered by Yegor Gaydar the day before. Extremely emotional were speeches by deputies Vyacheslav Lyubimov and Yuriy Sidorenko, which focused on growing unemployment, budget deficit, crime and blackmarketeering. They stressed that the people's living standards were dropping and trust in the government and the parliament was diminishing parallel with this. The two deputies called for a confidence vote and for an immediate congress of people"s deputies to discuss ways for pulling the country out of the crisis.

Several deputies came out with grounded objections to these demands. Viktor Dmitriyev, representing the "Democratic Russia" bloc of parliamentary factions, said, for instance, that the "present cabinet is being accused of every mortal sin. But let's see what we shall gain by removing the government, as suggested by some deputies, and what Russia will lose from its replacement. The answer is obvious: Several months will be needed to form a new cabinet. And this means, among other things, that negotiations on the postponement of Russia's external debt will be interrupted. Whole sectors of the industry will come to a standstill without imported supplies."

Dmitriyev stressed that the great Russia idea alone was obviously not enough to neutralise these tendencies. "Those who want to work, are ready to do it, but those who do not want to change anything in their lives call for the government's replacement," Dmitriyev said in conclusion.

Deputies Criticize Economic Reforms

OW2309110392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0953 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov who chaired the morning session, Wednesday [23 September], did not support Deputy Baburin's call for a vote of confidence to the government. According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, this question may be raised following the discussion of Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar's report on the current social and economic situation.

Neither did Khasbulatov put to the vote Deputy Isakov's proposal that the discussion of the report be suspended and that President Yeltsin be invited to the session. "We need to know what he thinks about the current situation and about the government's activity," he said.

Most of the deputies continued to attack the government's economic reforms.

Vyacheslav Lyubimov said, for instance, that "through the Cabinet's fault unemployment is growing, economic recession and inflation continue, and the number of refugees is increasing." He also said that the population's living standards are falling, and so are the president's, parliament's and government's authority. The government's public statements reveal its "pro-Japanese and pro-German position", he said. Lyubimov urged the MPs to hold a congress of people's deputies to discuss the social and economic situation in Russia.

Valeriy Gerasimov said that "the government has not kept a single promise it has made". However, he asked the deputies not to insist on the Cabinet's immediate resignation because, he said, cooperation between the government and parliament has become stronger. The government should be made more professional, he said. He also laid the blame for the failure of Yeltsin's visit to Japan on State Secretary for the President Gennadiy Burbulis and Vice-Premier Mikhail Poltoranin who prepared the visit.

Government, Deputies Argue

LD2309145292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent L. Ioffe; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Yaroshevskiy] And back in Moscow, the Russian Supreme Soviet is continuing work here.

[Ioffe] At the session today, even the opposition gave its due, both to the prime minister's personal courage and his adherence to his principles.

[Khasbulatov] The red commanders have left good descendants after all. [laughter from hall, video shows Gaydar among those laughing]

[Ioffe] On the whole, the anti-government coalition's arguments relating to yesterday did not increase: the colonization of Russia is under way, the president to the rostrum, the next congress should dismiss the government. The faction from the democratic center, based on the influential Civic Union coalition, believes that it is not the government that should be changed but its direction. A program is available. Opponents were more specific. In particular, there was a rebuff to yesterday's speech by (Yuriy Gekht), who spoke on behalf of directors, using his favorite words: give me.

It appears that there are other enterprises in Tula, Yaroslavl, and Yekaterinburg that having successfully surmounted the crisis, turned things around, and concluded advantageous contracts. What Deputy Kim said sounded very sincere, that the parliament had no moral right to groundlessly criticize the government, given all the unfinished work in its own operations.

Before the first interval, Yegor Gaydar went up to the rostrum. He reported that problems with getting taxes for the federal budget only exist with Chechniya now, and not with 30 regions as Deputy Baburin confided in a denunciatory diatribe. Gaydar also pointed to the inexpediency of the statements made by Lapshin, the leader of the agrarian union, which for an experienced agricultural expert, could not be incidental.

[Begin recording] [Deputy S. Baburin] I am sorry, but having already listened to the report, I saw a great many unauthentic figures adjusted to fit the situation. I have no reason to believe the rejoinders that Gaydar gave.

[Gaydar] The criticism of the government today was harsh. It was not unexpected for us. We thought that the opposition would make quite an active attempt to attack the government and the course that it is taking.

[Ioffe] Might one think that the chair beneath you has started to rock?

[Gaydar] I think that is still premature.

[Baburin] He has been sitting on a rocking chair from the very beginning. He is probably used to it. I wonder why everyone is waiting for the congress, and why Gaydar is so composed about not being accountable to the Supreme Soviet? We'll see the extent to which he is accountable.... [end recording]

[Ioffe] In answer to a question about whether the criticism was constructive, Yegor Timurovich elaborated.

[Begin recording] [Gaydar] For the most part, it unfortunately was not. [end recording]

[Yaroshevskiy] And here is another report on the work of the Supreme Soviet. General Gromov, the deputy defense minister, spoke there, giving information about the withdrawal of Russian troops from CIS and non-CIS countries. According to him, the process is on the whole progressing successfully, with precise monitoring by the command.

Deputy Minister on Troop Withdrawal

OW2309134892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Boris Gromov said that the issue of withdrawing the 14th Army deployed in Moldova will be resolved "when the situation in the region gets stabilized". Addressing Wednesday's [23 September] session of the Russian parliament, he said that this is likely to happen in 2 or 3 years, depending on the circumstances".

Boris Gromov familiarized MP's with a schedule for withdrawing troops from the former Soviet republics and other countries.

The withdrawal of the North-Western group of troops stationed in the Baltic states is to be concluded before the end of 1994. However, the deputy defence minister pointed out, this timing is not final, since talks with the three Baltic countries are still in progress.

From Lithuania troops are to be removed by the end of next year, Gromov said. As for the talks with Latvia and Estonia, they are not concluded yet, but tentative plans provide for removing troops from there before the end of 1994.

The withdrawal of the Northern group of troops from Poland "will be concluded in full before November 15 this year", he said. "A contingent numbering up to 6,000 servicemen will be engaged in recultivation works in Poland till the end of next year." According to Gromov, the Western group of troops will leave Germany by the end of 1994.

Troops withdrawal from Mongolia has virtually been concluded.

Deputies Reject Vote of Confidence

OW2309133092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament has practically turned down the call for vote of confidence to the government made by a number of deputies and factions. By a considerable majority, the deputies backed Deputy Vladimir Ispravnikov's idea not to pass any judgement on the government's activity before the adoption of the laws on the Council of Ministers and on civil service, and of the programmes for privatization and broadening the economic reform. The initiative was backed by 130 deputies; 30 were against and 28 abstained from voting.

The session also resolved to continue the discussion of the Cabinet's activity till the adoption of a final resolution on the issue.

Chairman of the parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov said that the call for a vote of confidence to the government, made at the beginning of the session, was a strategic mistake. He also urged to deputies to renounce the idea of holding an emergency congress and discussing the extraordinary powers issue, and bring the country back to a normal mode of work.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English adds during the same transmission at 1255 GMT: "Russia's Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said he was 'absolutely satisfied' with the parliament's decision not to pass any final resolution on the Cabinet's activity. 'This is what we expected,' he told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview. Asked whether confrontation with the parliament might be replaced with constructive cooperation, he said: 'We shall see. I always hope for the better'. Speaking about Yeltsin's proposal that the Central Bank of Russia be removed from the parliament's control, he said that jointly with the parliament the president will decide how the Central Bank should deal with the executive bodies. Gaydar said he favoured the government's 'stronger integration with the Central Bank'."]

Khasbulatov Rejects Extraordinary Congress

LD2309150792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1337 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 23 TASS—Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has spoken against the convocation of an extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies, on which many speakers at the discussion on the government report insisted.

He said preparations for a regular people's deputies congress will begin in November-December, 1992, in accordance with the Constitution.

The speaker called on parliament members to abstain from any "extraordinary measures" and stressed "it is high time to transfer the country and the government onto a normal regime of work".

Khasbulatov has also requested not to raise the question of confidence in the government. He said "in approximately ten days the parliament will return to the discussion of social and economic reforms' deepening". The Russian president is expected to participate in the discussion.

Boris Yeltsin has submitted for revision to the republican Supreme Soviet 11 laws he had not signed due to their non-correspondence to the Constitution and the federal treaty, Russian Minister of Justice Nikolay Fyodorov told today's parliament session.

The documents include the laws "on protection of constitutional power bodies", "on defence", "on currency regulation and currency control", "on the monetary system" and "the patent law".

Gaydar: Regions' Tax Payments Improving

LD2309141592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 23 TASS—Yegor Gaydar's statement at today's joint meeting of the two houses of the Russian Parliament was very brief. In fact, it was merely a comment instead of a rounding off speech in the debate on the report, which acting chairman of the Russian Government delivered yesterday.

"I will be very brief," he said. "and, of course, I will not sum up the results of the debate: This would require too much time. I understand full well the emotional tone of many speeches. It is explained by the difficult situation in the country, which is fully realised by the government. I merely want to urge you, esteemed deputies, to be truthful when you discuss such difficult problems."

"When esteemed Deputy Sergey Baburin says that more than thirty regions of Russia refuse to pay taxes, doesn't he really know that this is absolutely untrue? We have had trouble with taxes in the Chechen Republic and Bashkortostan, in Tatarstan and Yakutia, but they have been settled. Hence, there are only two regions, and not thirty, with which we are now having problems. We are very close to an agreement with one of them. All the other regions accurately pay their taxes to the federal budget," Gaydar stated.

Regional Affairs

Chechens, Russians Agree on Representations

LD2209203292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1852 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, the Chechen Republic, northern Caucasus, September 22 TASS—Today's Moscow negotiations between a Chechen delegation and Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy has decided to open official representations of the Chechen Republic in Moscow and the Russian Federation in Groznyy.

The Chechen side to the closed-door negotiations included Chechen State Secretary Aslambek Akbulatov and Chairman of the Chechen Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs Yusup Soslambekov.

The sides have also agreed to resume the working of the joint commission on settlement of the Russian-Chechen relations, head of the Chechen State Committee on Information and Press Movladiy Udugov told ITAR-TASS.

According to the preliminary information, the issue on "Russia's lifting of economic, financial and air blockade of the Chechen Republic" has been positively solved. Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Yuriy Yarov is expected to arrive in Groznyy in two days to continue working contacts.

In the words of Udugov, Soslambekov, who is also the chairman of the Caucasian highlanders confederation parliament, passed over to Rutskoy and Yarov official invitations to participate in a congress of the Caucasian highlanders to be held in early October in Groznyy.

Chechen Leader on Government Term, Gamsakhurdia

LD2209200892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We have learned today what Chechen President Dudayev said yesterday at the Chechen Government session, and I quote: If I am to go, then hundreds and thousands of leaders will go with me. We have all had enough of warming up our old seats.

Dudayev was extremely self-critical. He believes that the end of this year will serve as a graduation test for the present government and himself. And another quote, from Dudayev's interview to INTERFAX: We shall return Gamsakhurdia to Georgia only if the Georgian people vote for this, as they did during the presidential elections.

Stavropol Closes Border With Checheniya

PM2209132592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Nikolay Gritchin report: "Stavropol Kray Closes Border With Difficult Neighbor"]

[Text] Rigorous supervision of freight shipments by Russian internal troops, OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment], and the militia has been established as of 10 September along Russia's entire border with the Chechen Republic by North Ossetia, Stavropol Kray, and Dagestan. The aim is to prevent illegal weapons and munitions shipments and unlicensed export of goods.

With open borders Stavropol Kray's proximity to a sovereign state crammed full of weapons has become increasingly dangerous of late. In Kurskiy Rayon, whose territory borders on Checheniya, there have been increasingly frequent cases of looting, robbery, and theft of livestock and transport. According to local rayon internal affairs department figures, Chechen nationals account for one in four criminal offenses uncovered in the first eight months of this year. Although only one in 15 residents of the rayon is Chechen. Most criminals carry out cross-border raids. The people of Stavropol Kray were angered by the recent case of an armed group of Chechen volunteers, protected by hostages, proceeding through the kray to the passes leading to Abkhazia.

Retaliatory steps have been taken. Stavropol Kray has Russia's shortest border with Checheniya—138 km. An internal troop regiment from St. Petersburg, OMON men, and militia from many Russian oblasts have come to Kurskiy Rayon to guard the border. Additional checkpoints reinforced with armored vehicles have been set up on the main roads. Mobile groups roving around the uncultivated Nogayskaya Steppe, crisscrossed by hundreds of dirt roads, are helping to keep the border tightly closed. A record of the live grenades, edged weapons, and firearms confiscated has been kept from the outset.

The local population have given the military a cordial, hopeful reception as their champions. Soldiers are treated to the region's wonderful water melons, melons, and nuts. Seeing armored personnel carriers in the distance, village kids rush to the road at breakneck speed to ask for a ride. Adult villagers are also pleased to avail themselves of this passing traffic to reach the next bus stop on the highway.

The authorities here—directors and chairmen—are trying to help the military all around, making efforts to find accommodation, provide them with amenities, equip checkpoints, and supply food, fruit and vegetables.

Everything seems to be normal, but experts here are questioning the appropriateness of the steps being taken. They doubt the advisability of moving internal troops up to the Chechen border since they think that checks could quite easily be carried out by OMON and militia men. There is a reason for this view. Bringing troops up to the border brings an inevitable response. In this case provocation, a chance shot, an armored personnel carrier lost in the sand and ending up on foreign soil—anything at all—could serve as an excuse for an armed clash with far-reaching consequences. That has often been the case in other hot spots.

It has emerged that a local State Automobile Inspection official has in effect proved to be the boss at the checkpoints reinforced by troops and OMON men. The military and OMON say in perplexity that he may quite easily give the command for a limousine without registration plates to be let through because the driver is a friend of his. Or give orders for a vehicle carrying sheep not to be held because "you will leave, but I have to live here..." It looks as though powerful forces have been mustered at the border to serve the everyday interests of automobile inspectors here. This role is humiliating and corrupting. Having rapidly mastered this kind of "goodneighborliness," during raids the military are now no longer bothering to arrest drivers without licenses and are closing their eyes to other minor violations. However, basic logic would suggest that it is in the interests of the local authorities to make maximum use of the subunits sent there both to supervise the border and to restore order in the border region.

Novorossisk Reportedly Named Navy Base

LD2209205992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Novorossisk will probably become the main naval base of that part of the Black Sea Naval Fleet which will belong to Russia after its division. An evidence of this is the fact that the Government of Russia allocated 258 million rubles for the construction of housing in that city. This fact is neither confirmed or denied by president's representative in Krasnodar region, (?Vasil Diakonov). In his opinion, expressed during his conversation with a journalist from Sevastapol, Novorossisk is the gate of Russia on the Black Sea. It always was a naval base and is ready to receive the Black Sea Naval Fleet if such a decision is made by the top authorities of Russia.

India, U.S. Open Consulates in Vladivostok

OW2209140992 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian 0220 GMT 22 Sep 92

[From the "Lunch Hour Break" program]

[Text] It has been less than a year since Vladivostok acquired open city status. We attach certain hopes for the improvement of our affairs to the broadening of mutually profitable cooperation. After all, there is enormous interest in Maritime Kray, and it is growing all the time. The continuing opening of new offices by various firms and corporations testifies to this, and recently we have had diplomats throwing house warming parties too. The first to do so were the Indian diplomats and today, the U.S. Consulate General opens.

The visit by a force of U.S. military ships to Vladivostok was timed to the opening of the Consulate General. Now you can meet all kinds of people in the streets of our city, and no one is surprised to hear foreign tongues.

St. Petersburg Accelerates Privatization

PM2209191992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Yevgeniy Solomenko report: "City of Three Revolutions Sharply Speeds Up Transfer of Property Into Private Hands"]

[Text] The St. Petersburg Property Fund is putting on a "privatization spurt"—it has made plans to sell off 50 percent more facilities for privatization by competitive tender or by auction this September than over the previous four months. Some 150 stores, workshops, and service sector enterprises will be sold off over the month, instead of the hundred sold between May and the beginning of September.

The slow pace at which privatization has been carried out so far is the main reason why there is simply no real market in St. Petersburg at the moment. In order to speed up privatization and thereby activate the market mechanism, the St. Petersburg Property Fund has begun to actively get the local exchanges involved in cooperation. First the Agro-Industrial Exchange, and now another major business partner—the "St. Petersburg Exchange" joint-stock company. The latter together with the Property Fund will conduct the first major auctions 16 and 30 September.

This exchange has already built up experience and has quite good computer facilities. Moreover, it has now created the St. Petersburg Exchange Bank and also the St. Petersburg Exchange Insurance Company. Thus a privatization service industry is emerging in St. Petersburg. The newfound property owners will be able to exchange currency and insure the supermarket or consumer outlet which they have just bought right there at the auction.

Privatization in the city suffers from many ailments. Difficulties continue to arise with selling land on which privatized facilities are located. The facilities' value is often determined in a rather arbitrary manner—some of them are sold at clearly understated prices, which gives rise to a lot of talk and justified indignation.

Yet there are still grounds for optimism: The mechanism for putting privatization into practice in St. Petersburg is beginning to pick up momentum. Aleksandr Fishkov, chief of the St. Petersburg Property Fund's department of competitive tendering and auctions, stated at a recent briefing that his organization intends to look for new business partners and to further expand the base for carrying out privatization on the banks of the Neva.

It is planned to maintain the pace of privatization at at least the level of the September "spurt" in the ensuing months.

International Affairs

Germany's Chancellor Kohl To Visit Next Year

OW2209202992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will visit Ukraine in the beginning of 1993. This was announced during a briefing at the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry Tuesday by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Boris Tarasyuk. He stated that the German Foreign Affairs Ministry views the current condition of Ukrainian-German relations as "very good." Tarasyuk said the German government plans to increase its compensation for the labor of oestenarbeiters from Eastern Europe during World War II.

Analyzing the visit Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko made to Great Britain, Tarasyuk said that Zlenko succeeded in convincing the British of Ukraine's desire to follow the path of democratic reforms. This is extremely important, since, according to Tarasyuk, the belief that a communist regime became established in Ukraine after August 1991 is widespread in Great Britain.

Zlenko Outlines Ukraine's Objectives at UN

LD2209194292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine must use the rostrum of the United Nations Organization to consolidate its international prestige. This is how head of Ukraine's delegation at the 47th UN Assembly session, Anatoliy Zlenko, determined the tasks facing the delegation of Ukraine. He considers that according to its political, economic and cultural potential Ukraine must occupy a worthy place in the world community. With this aim Ukraine's diplomats, said the foreign minister, will have negotiations with their counterparts from other countries. Special attention will be paid to negotiations with the countries with which Ukraine has not yet established diplomatic relations.

Israeli Labor Party Delegation Visits Ukraine

LD2209205992 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1812 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] A meeting was held today between Mykola Myhalchenko, adviser to the Ukrainian president and leader of the Service for Ties with Public and Political Organizations and Movements, and Israel Gat, leader of the delegation of the Israeli Labor Party and director of the party's international.

The guests were informed about the current political situation in Ukraine and the activity of political parties, public organizations, and movements. The issue of broadening contacts between Ukraine and Israel not only at government level but also between political parties and public organizations was discussed at the meeting. Participants agreed that this meets with the interests of both states.

On behalf of the Government of Israel, Israel Gat presented an official invitation to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to visit Israel at a time convenient for him. The invitation was gratefully received.

National Affairs

Official Briefs Newsmen on Chernobyl Plant Plans

AU2209141892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The temperature inside the sarcophagus of the damaged energy unit of the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant does not exceed 200 degrees [Celsius]. There are much less emissions of dust or other microparticles from it than from operating units of the plant, the journalists were informed by Volodymyr (?Fuks), chairman of the Council of Directors of the Ukrenerhoatom Concern. Volodymyr Fuks also pointed out that, in the near five to seven years, operational diagnostics and precision monitoring of [words indistinct] that contains the fuel will be conducted at the damaged unit.

Then, after holding an international competition of designs, a new and more [word indistinct] shelter will be created. The designs will be considered next year.

Cabinet Meets on Stabilizing Economic Situation

LD2309062192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Activating economic reforms in Ukraine—that was the main theme at an expanded session of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers in which a plan of action to stabilize the economic situation in the republic was discussed. Speaking at the sitting, Prime Minister Vitold Fokin emphasized that the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers is prepared to take full responsibility for the fortunes of the economic reforms in the republic.

Supreme Council Discusses Laws, Criminal Code

LD2209173292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The Supreme Council of Ukraine continued its work today. As always, here are the details in a report by our parliamentary correspondent:

The morning session began with discussion of the resolution on introducing changes and additions to the law on entrepreneurship in the second reading. After essential observations from a number of deputies the resolution was returned to the Commission on Questions of Economic Reform and Economic Management for reworking. Then a number of resolutions were submitted for consideration by the parliament to regulate certain directions of Ukraine's foreign economic activity that were presented by Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. [passage omitted]

At the morning session deputies also passed one more resolution, on introducing changes to the criminal and the criminal procedure code of Ukraine. Then a clause-by-clause discussion of the draft law on state statistics began

in the second reading. This law came into effect with two amendments. Discussion of the resolution on introducing changes and additions to certain legislative acts in connection with the passing of the law on privatization papers ended without results. Due to disagreements between the authors of the document, it was returned to the commission for reworking.

Lively discussions unfolded at the evening session during the clause-by-clause examination of the draft law on advocacy in the second reading. After detailed discussion, Clause 5 was returned for reworking, therefore the draft law as a whole will be voted on on another occasion. The session will continue its work tomorrow.

Rukh Cochairman Discusses Supreme Soviet

LD2209192692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Popular Movement of Ukraine [Rukh] held a news conference on the subject of the dissolution of and elections for a new Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. Vyacheslav Chornovil, cochairman of the Rukh, spoke to the journalists. Listen to this report by Anatoliy Komerenko, who attended that news conference:

[Komerenko] The coalition A New Parliament for Independent Ukraine has been created in Ukraine. It includes nearly 20 political parties and movements. The most influential among them are Rukh, the Nova Ukraina association, the Green Party, and others. The collection of signatures is starting in favor of holding a referendum for early discontinuation of the parliamentary authorities. Chornovil stated on that subject:

[Begin Chornovil recording] All the democratic forces are for the referendum. Another matter is that things are going a bit [word indistinct].

Since we have started with the referendum, I will give you the information. So far, 34 initiative groups have been set up—about 4,000 members. These are people who have the right to collect signatures. The groups have been set up so far in 11 oblasts of Ukraine. In Kiev, three initiative groups have been set up. In other oblasts and in Crimea, preparatory work is being carried out for holding meetings. It is planned to hold meetings for creating new initiative groups in the oblasts where they have already been set up. The more of them, the better.

The Central Electoral Commission will meet tomorrow, and probably tomorrow those groups, the first groups, will be registered and from tomorrow a countdown of a sort will start of the three months for collecting signatures. As for those who say that it is an extremely difficult matter, and that we will [word indistinct] to collect 3 million signatures, it is so, but there are grounds for optimism too. If Halychyna [in western Ukraine], after all, produces two-thirds of the signatures, then we will be able to collect 3 million signatures. After the first million, our Supreme Soviet will become more lenient and more receptive toward some laws and demands of the democratic forces. After the second million signatures it will be even more lenient—like it was after the August putsch [words indistinct].

I think it will be a very good form of influence on the general political situation in the republic. The political forces which are taking part in it will have an opportunity to grow muscles, to make themselves more active, to fill up their ranks. [end recording]

Chornovil also assessed the first day of the work of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session and the state of the economy of our state.

[Begin Chornovil recording] Apathy, sort of, you know, confusion among the deputies proves that the government may last for some time and this will be a catastrophe for us. As for the demands of the democratic forces, have we somewhat changed the wording of our demand or what?

Please, if someone here from our parties, from force of inertia, says that we support a coalition government of national accord, they will be saying it from force of inertia because we all have worked out a different wording. It is impossible to create a coalition government of national accord today. First of all, we do not have a politically developed community. The Supreme Soviet has not been formed on a party principle. Authority on various levels has not been formed either on a multiparty principle. That is the first thing.

Second, the present composition of the Supreme Soviet will not allow the appointment of the very premier and the very ministers—those eight to be confirmed by the Supreme Soviet—whom we would like to have, and our proposals will simply fall through and we will have to agree to a compromise on some candidatures and later they will make us responsible for them. They will say: Here is that government of national trust or national accord, go ahead and answer for its actions.

Therefore we agreed on the formula of a transitional government of reforms. We said to the president at the meeting with him 18 September that he can form such a government, he may take into consideration [word indistinct] our proposals, he may disregard them, or maybe to appoint our representatives on some other positions in order for them to learn to control, so to speak. However, we will support such a government if it is a government of reform. However, it will not be a government of national accord which is being formed by a coalition of political parties and organizations. [end recording]

Vyacheslav Chornovil answered many questions from journalists. In particular, on the wording of the bulletins of the future referendum.

[Begin Chornovil recording] Are you for early discontinuation of the authorities of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet of Ukraine holding early elections to the parliament in 1993? The talk that we want anarchy, to disband the Supreme Soviet, and to switch to presidential rule or to assist the transfer to presidential rule is groundless. [end recording]

Military Reportedly Selling Firearms to Civilians

AU2309075992 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 17 Sep 92 p 1

[Commentary by correspondent V. Krokhmalyuk: "To Arms?"]

[Text] On 15 September, Deputy Taras Nahulko spoke at the Supreme Council session about mass sale of firearms by servicemen in Shepetivka. It was particularly pointed out that carbines had probably been purchased for personal use by presidential representatives in the oblast and in Shepetivka Rayon and by others.

On this occasion, I turned to Vasyl Konstantynov, chief of the Department for Protection of Public Order at the Khmelnytskyy Oblast Internal Affairs Administration. He told me the following:

"A corresponding normative act has made a provision for selling rifles to citizens. These rights are enjoyed by members of the Society of Hunters and Fishermen who have an experience of at least five years, who have positive references, take an active part in measures for conservation of nature, and have recommendations from the oblast council of the society.

"Permission to procure these weapons is issued by the Oblast Administration of Internal Affairs. A total of 98 hunters of Khmelnytskyy Oblast have purchased rifles for hunting. They also include those persons mentioned in the people's deputy's speech.

"Quite recently, rifles and carbines, such as those used in the army, began to be sold by a military unit. On what basis the sale of these weapons is conducted is a matter for the military to decide. By now, about 30 persons have purchased such weapons from the military unit by paying a corresponding sum of money. Those persons who were listed by the deputy have also bought their weapons there."

I do not know about others, but I have an uneasy feeling about this.

Zlenko on New External Political Problems Journal

AU2309092292 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Sep 92 p 1

[Commentary by Taras Petriv: "In the Spirit of the Age"]

[Text] As was already reported in our newspaper, the presentation of the journal POLITYKA I CHAS [Politics and Time] was held at the Press Center of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry. This is the only publication in our country that specializes in elucidating external political problems. The republic's Foreign Ministry and the labor collective of the editorial board are its founders. In the future, the journal will be published in Ukrainian, English, and Russian.

According to Anatoliy Zlenko, head of the Ukrainian external political department, this publication will carry articles by parliamentarians, members of the government, diplomats and scientists of the Academy of Sciences Institute of World Economy and International Relations. Hryhoriy Maksymenko, the editor of the journal, emphasized that POLITYKA I CHAS will also publish materials on the history of Ukrainian diplomacy, topical issues, as well as reference and statistical information.

Security Service Lists Types of Crime

AU2309120292 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 5 Sep 92 p 4

[Unattributed appeal: "The Security Service Guarantees Anonymity"]

[Text] The worsening of the crime-breeding situation in Lvov and in Lvov Oblast is accompanied by an increase in the quantity and scale of crimes directly aimed at undermining the economic independence of the state and destroying its financial and economic system and the existing mechanisms of distribution and sale of manufactured goods and foodstuffs.

In order to implement additional measures for fulfilling the decisions of the executive committee of the Lvov Oblast Council of People's Deputies "On the Intensification of the Struggle Against Crime in the Oblast," Ukraine's Security Service Administration in charge of Lvov Oblast is establishing a telephone line number 74-96-60 that may be used by anyone who possesses information on crimes that have been perpetrated or are about to be perpetrated, in particular:

—the manufacturing, purchase and sale of cold steel, firearms, explosives, poisons, or narcotics;

—smuggling operations;

—the manufacture, counterfeiting, and dissemination of forged money and securities;

—corruption and organized crime in the sphere of management, economic activity, production, and trade for the purpose of receiving bribes or personal profit in other forms;

—thefts of state property, including raw materials, nonferrous and rare-earth metals, and consumer goods;

—extortion, blackmail, and other actions that create a direct threat to Ukraine's vital interests.

The telephone operates round-the-clock. The Security Service official who answers the phone does not ask for personal data. Anonymity and ways of using the information are up to the caller.

Those persons who wish to pass on information that is not listed above are requested not to bother.

Belarus

Shushkevich Criticizes Nazarbayev Initiatives

OW2209192892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Supreme Council Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich told a Minsk press conference on September 21st that he viewed the media debate of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's "five initiatives" as "propaganda", and he described the initiatives themselves as "incantations modelled on the communism builder's code". The parliamentary leader said that Nazarbayev's five proposals came as no surprise to any of the heads of the CIS states. "Furthermore, they have been made several times at Commonwealth summits of the past," Shushkevich said.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Experts think that the idea of creating the KES (Coordinatory Economic Council) of the CIS was first voiced at a meeting between Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich and leaders of the republics. The Kazakh president's initiatives included a plan to form a coordinatory council for economic collaboration.

Shushkevich ruled out the possibility of his country taking part in any kind of new organisation (or confederation) based on the CIS model.

In answer to a question on the Belarusian government's reaction to Russia's decision to increase oil prices, Shushkevich said that his own republic was "not keen to follow suit" since, he said, such measures could "shatter the economy of the whole of the CIS". Shushkevich spoke in favour of new agreements with Russia on this subject in order to ensure that the "economic effects of the price increases did not prove detrimental".

The Supreme Council leader stated that a Belarusian referendum on confidence in the parliament and the government would "definitely take place", furthermore in full conjunction with current legislation.

Surveyors Studying Possible Borders With Baltics

LD2209172192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Belarus, just like Russia, intends to establish state borders with the Baltic countries. At present, the appropriate Republic services are carrying out a precise survey of the border line. RIA reports it will cost at least 700 million rubles to establish state borders with the Baltic states.

Moldova

Dniester Denies Sending Volunteers to Abkhazia

LD2209160292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS corresondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau September 22 TASS—Valeriy Litskay, a leader of the non-recognized by Moldova Dniester Republic, denied the press reports saying that volunteers from the Dniester region are allegedly taking part in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. "Neither the leadership, nor public and other organisations of the Dniester region sent its volunteers to Abkhazia," Litskay told ITAR-TASS today. At the same time Valeriy Litskay did not exclude that individual "soldiers of fortune" from the Dniester region could really come to Abkhazia calling themselves volunteers.

"We believe that it is impossible to settle by force this conflict or other controversial issues. We got convinced from our own experience that the only existing way to settle conflicts is to sit at the negotiating table," Valeriy Litskay pointed out.

Chisinau, Gagauz Officials Said Negotiating

OW2209192392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the threshold of the summit in Bishkek Moldova's leadership stepped up its efforts to resolve problems connected with the country's state structure. As IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent learned from confidential sources close to Moldova's leadership, the past few days saw active consultations between Chisinau officials and the leaders of the self-proclaimed Gagauz republic in Moldova's south.

According to the sources, on Tuesday, at another round of consultations in which the chairman of the Gagauz parliament Mikhail Kendigelian took part, "the level of mutually acceptable compromises was in principle determined". This involves the plans to establish in Moldova's south a self-governed Gagauz territory whose status Chisinau will officially recognize, if the Gagauz give up their demands that Moldova be turned into a federation, and that it recognize their independence.

President Mircea Snegur is expected to meet with a Gagauz delegation on Saturday.

IF Note: During his recent tour of Moldova's southern areas the President conferred with the authorities of Kamrat and Chadyr-Lung Districts. Under discussion was a range of measures designed to ensure the rights of ethnic minorities in Moldova. M. Snegur asked the Gagauz authorities to impose till October 1 a moratorium on their parliament's decision to abolish local government bodies (backed by Chisinau). President Snegur voiced concern about the large number of firearms kept by the Gagauz population, and about the Gagauz leaders' statements that they are ready to defend their republic arms in hand. M. Snegur called for disbanding and disarming the local volunteer units, since Moldova has already done so, and since it has no intention of attacking its southern areas. For his part M. Kendigelian suggested that the President should convene Moldova's

parliament for a session to consider "the ways to ensure peaceful coexistence between the three republics: Moldovan, Trans -Dniester and Gagauz".

Dniester Parliament Supports UN Rights Policy

OW2209220292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Trans-Dniester Moldovan Parliament continued its work in session Tuesday in Tiraspol. The session passed a resolution on the Trans-Dniester Moldovan Republic's (TMR) relations to international agreements and other human rights acts. The document contains a notice for the United Nations stating TMR's readiness to sign and ratify a series of UN human rights documents and, regardless of the republic's membership status, to consider already existing acts relating to human rights effective in TMR territory.

The session also endorsed a statement relating to accounts of preparations for renewed military action to be taken by Moldova against TMR. The Trans-Dniester Parliament annonced its efforts not to allow further bloodshed and made assurances that TMR would never be the first to break the truce. The statement includes an appeal to the Moldovan Parliament that it make analogous assurances.

Report Alleges Chisinau Housing Illegalities

PM2309091192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Svetlana Gamova: "Prosecutor's Office Protests 390 Decisions by Chisinau City Authorities"]

[Text] The Chisinau city authorities have used the city coffers for their own ends. That was the conclusion reached by the Moldovan Prosecutor's Office after conducting an investigation.

The Prosecutor's Office Collegium noted that "City Hall and its subordinate structures have participated in the contravention of legislation in their capacity as founder members of several of trade and economic enterprises, transferring about 13 million rubles from the city budget into these enterprises' incorporation accounts."

The capital's Prosecutor's Office has protested 390 decisions, but the city authorities have not yet reacted. Plots for constructing individual houses within the city limits have been distributed with impunity, in contravention of the law. People's deputies and "certain people from the highest echelon of power," who have apartments, turned out to be among the lucky owners of these plots. Ordinary people waiting in line for state housing were squeezed by ranking officials on the basis of government and state chancellery decisions and petitions. A total of 567 apartments intended for citizens were turned into hostels and hotels at a stroke of functionaries' pens. Another 200 apartments from the same city housing stock were leased out to cooperatives and other commercial structures.

City property is going under the hammer, but low-income citizens are unable to take part in the clearance sale. They should not rely on getting new accommodations in the near future, since as a result of the crisis that has hit Moldova's construction sector, the construction of high-rise housing in Chisinau has been suspended.

As regards the offenses committed by the city authorities in the distribution of housing, the republic's Prosecutor's Office, having recorded the facts, limited itself to a decision "obliging City Hall to comply strictly with legislation and to coordinate all its activities with the Prosecutor's Office."

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Wants Interstate Institutions

MK2209111892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Vera Kuznetsova under the "CIS" rubric: "Nazarbayev Flies to West After Rigidly Indicating His Positions in Slav-Asian Union"]

[Text] President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev remains, probably, the most rigid politician in the CIS, but his consistency tends to conceal the sensational nature of the statements he makes. So it was yesterday, at a news conference at Vnukovo-2 prior to the Kazakh president's departure for Bonn.

Following 19 September's meeting with Yeltsin, Nazarbayev first confirmed his intention to establish CIS institutions—primarily an interstate bank and an economic coordination council—despite the possibility of a split. The Kazakh leader even deems it unavoidable that a coalition of ruble-zone republics finally will take shape within the Commonwealth. "This will be one group of states," Nazarbayev said, "while those that will not sign an interbank union and an agreement on an economic council will be another group (but also within the CIS) with which we will have to build special relationships. I will note that republics introducing their own currency also will be able to join the interbank union." Many observers perceive this position of the Kazakh president's as merely a desire for centralism, and in terms of form, they designate it a confederation. Nazarbayev, though, remarked quite sharply yesterday: "There is no question of a federation. This has been thought up by you journalists, while I have not mentioned any such thing...." It remains only to believe the Kazakh president, all the more so because his desire to control the ruble is completely understandable as an attempt to equalize Kazakhstan's position (and indeed that of the Central Asian group in principle) in relation to the western republics of the CIS which are speculating endlessly on the interplay between the ruble and the national currencies. It is true that despite all the accusations of Nazarbayev's imperial ambitions [nesmotrya ne vse obvineniya Nazarbayeva v imperskikh ambitsiyakh] almost everyone reacts to his economic efforts.

After the interbank union, Nazarbayev's second priority is a defense union, which also was discussed at the meeting with Yeltsin. The Kazakh president is alarmed by the instability in the Central Asian region and especially because of Tajikistan. First Karimov and now Nazarbayev too are using all their forces to protect themselves from creeping revolution. The Kazakh leader did not, however, begin to talk about the danger of fundamentalism, but he observed that if the Islamic party prevails then conflicts with neighboring states may arise. In order to prevent this it is essential, as Nazarbayev put it, that the conflict in Tajikistan come to end and that "authority be established there." Therefore Yeltsin and Nazarbayev were both of the opinion that the 201st Russian Division must remain in Tajikistan to stem the export of weapons from Afghanistan, but it should be manned uniformly by Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Uzbek, Russian, and Tajik soldiers. Though given these intentions, it is not very clear—all the same—what sort of authority is to be established in Dushanbe. Another thing is the placidity [spokoystviye] of the CIS leaders at a time when Russia gradually is making the Commonwealth's troops its own. As far as the case of Tajikistan is concerned, Nazarbayev believes that if that republic has not declared the creation of its own armed forces, then Russian jurisdiction as a substitute for "CIS" jurisdiction is no violation.

Departing mortal [brennyy] Moscow—and the CIS along with it—the president of Kazakhstan set off for Bonn to sign a memorandum on relations with Germany and agreements on scientific and technical cooperation, trade, and the protection of investments. Nazarbayev also intends to talk about the deferral of foreign debt payments for Russia. Then, in Paris, the Kazakh leader will sign a treaty on friendship and cooperation: The Paris Charter.

Nazarbayev Assures Ethnic Germans of Protection

LD2209185692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1300 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Tatyana Zhurbenko]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 17 Sep (TASS)—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev met with representatives of the republic's German population today. The meeting was devoted to the head of state's upcoming visit to Germany. "We must do everything so that Kazakhstan's Germans do not leave their longstanding dwelling places," Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed. "The departure of our fellow-citizens for the FRG, to which each of them definitely has a right, is a great loss for the republic. I intend to raise questions during my visit to Germany whose joint solution could help the representatives of this industrious people consolidate themselves in their new-found motherland forever."

The problems which were put by participants in the meeting concerned the economy, the social sphere, culture, and education. The president considered that some of them, for example, the setting up of a Kazakhstan-German bank or the opening of an independent television channel which would broadcast in German, could quite easily be solved. On other questions—on the establishment of one newspaper for the Germans of the FRG and the CIS and the abolition of visas for visits to their historic motherland by ethnic Germans—he intends holding negotiations with the German side.

Representatives of the German population appealed to Nursultan Nazarbayev to raise at the negotiations, the question of FRG aid to its compatriots from Kazakhstan which has been publicly promised, but which has not been practically implemented.

Meets German Ethnic Union Chief

LD2209161192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2032 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow September 21 [date as received] TASS—Kazakhstan's leadership gives support to Germans residing in Kazakhstan in the area of culture. It will also help open national pre-school institutions and schools, issue German newspapers, create a television channel in German and further develop the German national theatre. President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev said this during a meeting in Moscow on Sunday [20 September] with Hugo Wormsbecher, the chairman of the interstate Union of Ethnic Germans in Russia, and with Heinrich Groot, chairman of the "Rebirth" society. The meeting took place in the run-up to the Kazakh president's visit to Germany.

Questions connected with the situation of Germans in Kazakhstan and problems of meeting their national requirements were discussed during the meeting, Wormsbecher told ITAR-TASS (there are 1.2 million Germans in Kazakhstan).

Wormsbecher pointed out to President Nazarbayev that the law on the Kazakh state language is sometimes used in the provinces as a means of forcing out Germans and not only Germans. Wormsbecher suggested to create German representation in Kazakhstan's parliament and government structures for a more effective solution of problems of Germans in Kazakhstan. It was also proposed to draft jointly with other republics where Germans live—Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine—and with German participation, a joint agreement ensuring that national interests of ethnic Germans are met. Nazarbayev said that the creation of national-territorial formations in Kazakhstan is virtually impossible.

Asked by the chairman of "Rebirth" society about the possibility of double citizenship (of Kazakhstan and the FRG) for Germans living in Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev said that "this is out of question. If it is introduced, 60 per cent of Kazakhstan's population will have double citizenship".

The meeting showed that both sides are striving to look together for the ways to resolve problems of Germans in Kazakhstan, Wormsbecher said. However, unless Germans in Kazakhstan are granted national-territorial self-government, they will leave Kazakhstan with the passage of time since their national future will not be ensured, Wormsbecher said.

Arrives in Germany; Signs Treaties

LD2209195392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1851 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By KAZTAG special correspondent Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov and ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Korinenko and Sergey Sosnovskiy]

[Text] Bonn September 22 TASS—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and visiting President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan signed a joint statement on the basic principles governing relations between the two countries here today.

The sides also signed a treaty to develop large-scale cooperation in the economy, industry, science and engineering and a treaty to encourage and protect mutual capital investments.

Deep economic and political transformations are now being launched in Kazakhstan, Kohl said in his speech. The republic embarked on the path of developing private initiative and a market-oriented economy. Germany and its Western partners are ready to provide any kind of assistance to it. The German Government also helps boost cooperation with Kazakhstan by extending credit guarantees to it.

Nazarbayev described the documents signed as a "sturdy foundation" for developing equal and large-scale cooperation between the two states. He said this interaction can make a real contribution to peoples' prosperity if substance is added to it.

The sides attach great importance to issues associated with the life of ethnic Germans in Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev emphasised that all necessary conditions will be created to ensure to them possibilities for self-realisation and residence on the territory of Kazakhstan, which is their homeland. To this end, the government will elaborate a special programme envisaging the creation of the necessary conditions for the development of the national language, culture and traditions and performance of religious rites.

The situation in republics of the former Soviet Union was the dominant theme at a meeting in the German Society of Foreign Policy. Nazarbayev spoke about problems that stand in the way of normal development in CIS Republics.

"The surgical operation on the body of the single economic mechanism was performed basically by the political scalpel that was not always mindful of estimates made by professional economists," Nazarbayev observed.

"The illusory confidence in the possibility of realising one's aspirations speedily, which does not take into account the real economic relationship, hinders until now the implementation of the objective integrative tendency of republics of the former USSR. Leaps and experiments are contraindicated to us as history repeatedly showed. Consistent evolution based on the ideology of common sense is needed," Nazarbayev added.

Addressing renowned representatives of Germany's business community, who gathered in the Eastern Committee for the German Economy in Cologne today, Nazarbayev emphasised that his republic would not have come to grips with economic problems faced by it without close cooperation with industrialised powers and attracting foreign investments. Nazarbayev offered the broadest possible cooperation to Germany's big, medium and small business.

"We go to you not with an extended hand, we do not seek a unilateral advantage, but invite you to mutually beneficial and equitable partnership," he stressed.

Tomorrow, Nazarbayev will visit Stuttgart where the concern Deimler-Benz Ag is headquartered and will then head to France.

Cereal Crops Threshed on North Kazakhstan Oblast

LD2209172792 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Summary] Cereal crops have been threshed on an area of 1 million hectares in North Kazakhstan oblast, which is three quarters of the total area. The average yield is 20.4 quintals per hectare, which is five more than planned. Altogether in the republic 14 million hectares of cereal has been threshed which is two-thirds of the total area.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S., Other Envoys

LD2209214692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov has received Iranian Ambassador to Kazakhstan Rasul Islami. There was an exchange of views on bilateral economic cooperation. The minister stressed that contacts in this field have favorable prospects. The Iranian diplomat, referring to the position of the supreme leadership of his country, expressed agreement with such an approach by Kazakhstan. Tuleutay Suleymenov also received U.S. Ambassador William Courtney and Mongolian Ambassador Erdeniyn Byambazhav.

Kyrgyzstan

Expert Convinced of Need for CIS Defense Union

OW2209224192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Russia, the newly independent Central Asian states, and Kazakhstan will not get by without a defense union in the realm of the CIS," declared presidential advisor on legal policy Leonid Levitin.

An analysis of the events in Tajikistan leads one to the conclusion that without such a union the states will be practically incapable of protecting their sovereignty, said Levitin in an interview with INTERFAX.

He confirmed that the Central Asian states, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Belarus were objectively interested in a confederative form of membership in the Commonwealth. According to Levitin, the associative principle of participation in the CIS is suitable for Ukraine and Moldova. Other states, proposes the advisor, could further establish observer status. Levitin is confident that such pluralism in approaches will secure the Commonwealth's future.

"We exist in one system of coordinates and it will take a long time before Kyrgyzstan will be able to become a part of another geo-political space," said Levitin.

Bishkek Agreements Indicate Eurasian Integration

PM2109161592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 2

[Vladimir Ryashin report: "The Eurasian Magnet"]

[Text] Politicians are beginning to realize that the jolly dance on the debris of the USSR is becoming dangerous. Even the most frenzied of them sense that the time for rapture is past and that a serious hangover is coming on. No, their voices have not merged into a powerful chorus singing "The Union is dead, long live the Union!" However, something akin to nostalgia is in the air. The imprecations against the the "evil empire" are becoming quieter and less frequent. No matter how brutal it may sound, when its debris are stained the color of human blood even those who sank nails into the living body of the mighty power with the adroitness of undertakers begin to see the light. After all, it was not the fetters of totalitarianism that united the peoples of the USSR. Their community grew naturally, nourished by deep centuries-old Eurasian roots. The fact that those roots were not completely severed in the depths of this huge spiritual continent was confirmed by the interparliamentary assembly in Bishkek.

The new institution of the independent states founded in the capital of Kyrgyzia is of course fragile as yet. Its influence does not encompass all the expanse of the Community. As is well known, only six republics served as founders of this new CIS organ. No Ukrainian, Uzbek, Moldovan, or Turkmen delegations attended the interparliamentary assembly. You should not, of course, see it just in terms of the sports score 6:4. Each refusal to take part in the Bishkek meeting has its own reasons behind it.

The statement by Leonid Kravchuk, who was visiting the Brussels headquarters of the EC Commission at the time, is noteworthy: "The CIS is neither a serious nor a viable community...."

Some analysts also offer conjecture over Turkmenistan: The view of its leader is said to be increasingly concentrated on the East; there is less and less room for the Slavic CIS states within the geopolitical interests of the Karakum "Kuwait."

The ideas of presidents are not always the same as those of parliament, let alone the people. However, let us not forget that at least three trends in the politics of integration of the new independent states have emerged across the expanses of the former USSR: Europe-Europe, Asia-Asia, and finally Europe-Asia.

Let us hope that the Eurasian magnet will nevertheless prove strongest. The documents adopted in Bishkek support that belief. They contain not just routine declarations by parliamentarians, they bear the hallmark of a desire by peoples divided artificially and sometimes by force, and therefore, the ideas the assembly expressed of uniform rights of citizenship, common principles of social protection, and the harmonization of the legislation of states within the CIS should not remain just in the Bishkek protocols.

Fulfillment of Government Grain Order Updated

OW2209225392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Due to the widespread refusal of farms to sell grain to the government for non-cash, bank-transfer money, the government is accumulating about 5-7% of grain it orders in spite of a good harvest this year. This information was disclosed Tuesday [22 September] during a meeting between Kyrgyz Prime Minister Tursunbek Chingyshev and leaders of agricultural organizations.

Agriculture Minister Karynbek Asanov announced the year had witnessed good crops of potato, vegetables, fruits and watermelons which had grown better than last year. Due to the lack of fuel, however, part of the harvest will remain on the fields. Preparations for winter, he said, are going unsatisfactorily at best.

Prime Minister Chingyshev emphasized the organizations' leaders "are speculating over objective difficulties" and covering "their own inactivity and unaccountability" with the absence of fuel, credits and cash money.

Akayev Signs Decree on Foreign Investments

OW2209231892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "In connection with the broadening scale of foreign investment in the republic's economy" President Askar Akayev signed a decree "On measures for the organization of expert examinations of foreign investments." Specialists stress that one of the goals of this move is to protect the interests of legal and physical entities entering legal relationships with foreign partners.

According to the document, foreign investors seeking to develop business partnerships in Kyrgyzstan are required to make a non-refundable deposit to a general commission on foreign investments in order to cover the expenses of conducting economic, legal, and other expert examinations of the completed contract.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The deposit will be 0.5% of the estimated cost of the investment project and will be subject to negotiation or agreement, although can comprise no less than $25,000 US and no more than $50,000 US, or the equivalent in another convertible currency. The money will go into a special account under the general direction of the state committee on foreign investments in the republic of Kyrgyzstan.

Defined goals of the experts: a) to clarify the reputation of the firm presenting the project; b) to analyze economic, legal, and other aspects of the investment project; c) to determine which version of the project will be most beneficial for the republic and into which branches of the Kyrgyzstan economy the project best fits.

Price Increases Spark Production Recession

LD2209212892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1642 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov—TASS]

[Text] Bishkek September 22 TASS—The Bishkek city dairy factory today again reduced its output as the September 1 dairy price liberalization has lead to the outstock.

The republican industrial and agricultural production has decreased by 20 per cent over this year. The output of foodstuffs has dropped by almost 40 per cent. The current wholesale index is 1,784 per cent.

Thus, the family budget does not cover a half of the consumer basket cost despite the increased wages and salaries. A total of 920 republican enterprises have announced large-scale dismissals.

"Over the five months our incomes have surpassed the spending, but earthquakes and high waters have claimed almost a year income from the budget," Republican Prime Minister Tursunbek Chingyshev told KYRGYZTAG.

"We had to toughen the financial policy, search for ways to encourage the production and attract foreign investors to help us improve the economic situation".

While the government is doing its best to overcome the crisis, the working people have begun spontaneous actions against the liberation of prices. In the Naryn region rally participants blocked the local administrative building and destroyed several commercial shops.

In case specialists' forecasts come true, by the end of this year the republic will witness another three-five time increase of prices. One can prevent a social explosion only by freezing the prices and the minimum wages and salaries for the whole transitional period.

Kyrgyzstan will not be able to do it when staying in the single rouble zone. Thus, the leap from socialism to market may destroy the fragile social stability and civil peace.

Trade, Cooperation Agreement Signed With Romania

LD2209203892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1518 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest, 18 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—An agreement on trade and on economic and scientific-technical cooperation between Romania and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan was signed in Bucharest today. Gheorghe Albu, state secretary at the Romanian Trade and Tourism Ministry, and Marat Tazabekov, first deputy chairman of the committee for Kyrgyzstan's foreign economic relations, signed the document on behalf of the governments of their countries.

The agreement concerns the setting up of a juridical framework for the expansion of economic contacts between the two countries and granting reciprocal most favored nation trading conditions, which will be conducted in freely convertible currency at world prices. The document stresses that the sides will strive to set up joint ventures and other mutually advantageous forms of cooperation.

Questions concerning prospects for cooperation between the two countries were also reviewed during a meeting between M.Tazabekov and Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase. Romania and Kyrgyzstan established diplomatic relations in June.

China's XINHUA, Kyrgyz News Agencies To Cooperate

LD2109225492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek September 21 TASS—The Chinese news agency "XINHUA" has decided to help Kyrgyzstan's state information services receive operational and fuller information about all spheres of the life of the Republic of China, journalists of the agency told Kyrgyz Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev during the conversation. "XINHUA" has already signed similar protocols in Minsk, Kiev, Tashkent and Dushanbe. Talks regarding mutual information exchange between the Chinese and Kazakh news agencies are to be held in a few days.

Tajikistan

Afghanistan's Hekmatyar Training Tajik Militants

MK2309090692 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 92 p 1

[Igor Rotar report under "Top Secret" rubric: "Citizens of Tajikistan in Hekmatyar's Military Camps. Movie Director Suspects Pushtun Leader of Perfidy"]

[Text] According to a report by Lieutenant Colonel Romaz Yankauskas, deputy chief of the Russian border guard troops stationed on the territory of Tajikistan, during a combat action in the Afghan province of Qunduz, General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's Uzbek militia, seized a large group of Tajiks (citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan) who were undergoing combat training in the camps of Golbuddin Hekmatyar (Islamic Party of Afghanistan [IPA]). Another field commander (a lieutenant colonel who refused to give his name) discovered and rendered harmless on territory in Qunduz Province—earlier controlled by the IPA, three camps housing militants at which 120 Uzbeks (citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan) were detained. Negotiations are currently in progress on handing over the detainees to the Russian border troops. Lt. Col. Yankauskas also reported that no fewer than 20 Afghan instructors—IPA members—are fighting in the ranks of the opposition on the territory of the Tajik Republic.

The information passed on to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA'S correspondent by highly placed military personnel proved to be a long-awaited sensation. Rumors about Golbuddin Hekmatyar's support for Tajikistan's illegal paramilitary formations have been doing the rounds for some time now.

In confidential conversations many influential Tajik officials spoke of the IPA's close ties with Tajik militants, but any reports in the press about Afghan assistance are immediately refuted. Suffice it to recall the sensational article in the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK, which Tajik Foreign Minister Khudoberdy Kholiknizarov designated a cheap provocation in a conversation with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent.

So, today the "vow of silence" has been broken. What is more, even representatives of the moderate Tajik opposition do not deny the fact of Hekmatyar's assistance.

Davlat Khudonazarov, one of the most influential political figures in Tajikistan, a recent rival of ex-President Rakhman Nabiyev and chairman of the CIS confederation of cinematographers, reasons thus: "Gulboddin Hekmatyar's main opponent is the Union of Uzbeks and Tajiks of Afghanistan. If the zone of conflict in Tajikistan were to be broadened, contradictions would inevitably arise among the Uzbek and Tajik populations of the republic, which in turn would wreck the Union of Uzbeks and Tajiks of Afghanistan. From time immemorial, Uzbeks and Tajiks have lived side by side. Their friendship is the guarantee of stability in the region. The territorial demarcation of the 1920's has meant that a large number of Uzbeks live in Tajikistan and, conversely, the territory of modern Uzbekistan has long been home to Tajiks. A quarrel between our peoples can detonate the whole of Central Asia. It is not excluded that Hekmatyar has a very perfidious plan with a long-term goal."

As it happens, an increasing number of Uzbek citizens of the Tajik Republic have recently begun to engage in arms smuggling.

Tension Remains on Pyandzh Section of Afghan Border

LD2209181892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Tension is not subsiding on the almost 300 kilometer long section of border guarded by the Pyandzh border detachment of the Russian border troops on the Tajik-Afghan border. Attempts to cross the border are following one after the other. Today alone, three persons were detained after they tried to swim across from Afghanistan to Tajikistan. Many border violators are aiming at an outright clash. Therefore the border guards frequently have to use weapons.

Tajik Security Situation Remains Unstable

LD2209153192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] According to a report from the press center of the Internal Affairs Ministry and the National Security Committee, the situation in the republic remains unstable. According to a report from the Internal Affairs Ministry, gunfire was heard in the suburbs of Kurgan-Tyube city.

Opposing groups exchanged gunfire on the Kuibyshev farm and the Karl Marx state farm in Bakhtar Rayon.

Meanwhile the situation was calm in Kulyab overnight. According to reports reaching the Internal Affairs Ministry, rumors that local volunteers are leaving for Kafarnihon Rayon do not correspond to reality.

The situation is also unstable in the capital itself. During the past 24 hours alone, 55 criminal incidents were registered. Lawlessness and looting are on the increase in the city, as well as the seizure of vehicles with the intent of using [word indistinct] firearms.

On the night of 22 September, 18 state and private vehicles were seized. Of these, eight vehicles were stolen from the No. 4 vehicle depot in Mayakovskiy Street. The military [word indistinct] of the State University of Tajikistan reported to the Internal Affairs Ministry that during the same night, unidentified armed men seized one KamAZ vehicle and two armored vehicles used for training.

The news of shooting incidents in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast also was confirmed by Rajabov, head of the press center of the National Security Committee. He also reported two incidents of violation of the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. At present the staff of the National Security Committee are taking (?measures) in accordance with the instructions of Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of Tajikistan, and are submitting proposals on the creation of posts in especially significant installations that are of great vital importance to the entire population of the republic.

Rajabov also spoke on the events taking place in Kafarnihon and the arrival of refugees from there, adding that there was no reason for people to leave the area. Two groups of staff from the National Security Committee have been sent to the region to learn about the situation and to meet the inhabitants. In order to assess the situation correctly a helicopter was flying over the area.

A KHOVAR (?reporter) received a report from the emergency group of the Russian border troops stationed in Tajikistan territory. In accordance with the report, a group of men stopped a convoy of the border troops in the Shar-Shar (?pass) and demanded weapons, but a helicopter escorting the convoy landed in [word indistinct] forcing the robbers to flee.

National Movement Chief Supports CIS Troop AID

OW2209201292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leader of the National Movement of the Kulyab region (in southern Tajikistan), 64 year old Sangak Safarov believes that "the time for peaceful negotiations between the opposing fighting groups has passed." In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX he stressed that currently "the only real force" capable of stopping the bloodshed in Tajikistan could be CIS peacekeeping forces, and he expressed his hope that at the upcoming meeting of heads of Commonwealth states in Bishkek "this matter would finally be resolved." He added that only under the presence of CIS peacekeeping forces could the opposing fighting groups be disarmed.

The leader of the Kulyab region announced his strong belief in "the refined democratic path of development," but allowed for the possibility of the establishment of "moderate Islam rule" in Tajikistan.

Safarov stressed that the fighting divisions "will stick to their positions until the end" and urged the republic's leadership to ensure the security of humanitarian paths from Dushanbe in Kulyab to the Chormagzak crossing. Otherwise, "we will do this ourselves, but with weapons," said the National Movement leader in conclusion.

War Veteran's Union Calls For CIS Troops

LD2209212592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By KHOVAR news agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe September 22 TASS—"The fratricidal war fire is intensifying day by day," says an appeal of the Afghan War Veterans' Union Presidium to the republican parliament and the government, political parties and organizations and the Tajik people circulated here today.

The veterans expressed their concern over the fact the warring sides "have taken irreconcilable stands and no long want to listen to sober calls for peaceful negotiations".

The veterans said they have never been advocates of any group and are ready to become peaceful mediators between the warring sides and create peace-making neutral forces from among the union members.

At the same time, they are ready to set up "a special group for holding negotiations between the sides in order to upkeep communication between the warring groups" and request the Supreme Soviet and the government for assistance in the organizational work.

XXX

A committee for protection of women and children has been set up in Tajikistan on the initiative of physicians from the republican Mother and Child Care Institute, who are concerned over the grave state of republican health care.

The complicated political situation has affected the most unprotected society members - mothers and children.

The death rate has increased twice in comparison with the last year. The reason for this is the shortage of medicines and poor nutrition. Physicians have stated the number of women exhausted as result of poor nutrition has increased over the past time.

The new humanist organization plans to improve the health of women of child-bearing age, establish direct contacts with pharmaceutics enterprises, raise money to help families with many children and provide for juridical consultation of the most unprotected layers of the population.

XXX

The number of refugees from the Tajik Kulyab region has exceeded 150,000.

The region now suffers a sharp shortage of bread, clothing, fuel and other prime necessities as result of the two-months economic blockage, said chairman of the Kulyab regional executive committee Kurbonali Miszoaliyev. For instance, over 12,000 tonnes of gasoline and 30,000 tonnes of grain have disappeared on their way to Kulyab.

The official believes U.N. emergency measures will help stabilize the local situation. In addition, it is necessary to introduce the CIS forces in the republic, he said.

Oblispolkom Chairman on Kulyab Update, CIS Troops

PM2309104992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 1

[Anatoliy Ladin report incorporating interview with K. Mirzoaliyev, chairman of Kulyab Oblispolkom: "Kulyab Asks for Aid. Russian Division Guards Important Installations"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Our correspondent asked the chairman of Kulyab Oblispolkom [oblast soviet executive committee] to talk about the present situation in the oblast and comment on recent events in the vicinity of the Nurek GES [hydroelectric power station]. Here is Kurboi Mirzoaliyev's reply:

[Mirzoaliyev] The situation in the oblast and, in particular, in Kulyab, is extremely complex. In actual fact we are suffering an all-out economic and information blockade. For 30 days the republic has been unable or unwilling to provide the oblast and its center with essential commodities. We are unable to pay wages either in the city or in the countryside. Some 10-15 children are dying every day in the hospitals owing to lack of the necessary medicines and, in particular, syringes. Refugees from Kurgan-Tyube Oblast—Uzbeks, Uyguts, and Russians—are continuing to arrive in Kulyab. There are already more than 8,000 of them.

I had a telephone conversation today with Akbar Iskandarov, acting Tajik president. I raised the question directly: What is to be done? People do not want to go back. Their houses have been destroyed. They are afraid. We are also unable to sustain this body of people in the present conditions.

People accuse us, saying that thugs from Kulyab are allegedly taking part in the hostilities in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. There are none of our people there. We are only defending the territory of our own oblast from armed attack.

Our people are guarding the Shar-Shar pass. This is the only route linking the oblast with Dushanbe. As you know, the opposite side recently carried out an attack and this cost the lives of nine men, while eight people were injured. The intention was to sever this route too, blockading Kulyab once and for all.

The Nurek GES is still being guarded by CIS forces. Our posts have only been stationed at the entrance to the city to prevent people infiltrating the GES who have already threatened to shut it off.

I would like to ask the heads of the CIS states, the Russian leadership, and Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov to speed up the resolution of the question regarding the introduction of CIS troops to separate the opposing sides. We know that there is opposition to this. However, you must bear in mind the sufferings of thousands of people. They are tired of terror and violence. They are pinning their only hope of peace on the introduction of peacekeeping forces into the republic.

Over 800,000 Reportedly on Brink of Hunger

OW2209231292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Over 800,000 Tajiks residing in Kulyab region, in the south of Tajikistan, are on the brink of hunger, according to regional executive committee chairman Kurban Mirzoaliyev. He says that the supply of humanitarian aid depends entirely on the security provided to truck caravans. The issue was discussed during today's negotiations in Kulyab between the Tajik Parliament leaders, servicemen, and local officials.

Kurban Mirzoaliyev said that the region had at its disposal a three-day supply of food at best, while in some districts there had been no bread for more than 24 hours. The presence of over 30,000 refugees from the neighboring Kurgan-Tyubin region, mostly Uzbeks, Russians, and Tatars, further aggravates the situation.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1633 GMT on 22 September in a similar report adds: "The situation is intensifying and 80% of the (30,000) refugees located here are Uzbek."

[Saiydov (himself an Uzbek) plans to contact the Uzbek leadership in order to 'solve the refugee problem.' He said that, depending on the agreement reached with Uzbekistan, the refugees will either be returned to Uzbekistan or will be given the opportunity to reside in the capitol - Dushanbe."] Hospitals lack medical supplies, and 15-20 children die every day, according to the head executive.

Kurban Mirzoaliyev said that agricultural work had come to a standstill due to the shortage of fuel and lubricants. More than 20,000 hectares of grain, corn, and cotton crops have not been harvested yet. At present, the region has a debt of 4.5 billion rubles.

The Commander of Russian armed forces in Tajikistan, General Mukhriddin Ashurov, told an INTERFAX correspondent of his readiness to provide guard for goods delivered to the region and to provide whatever trucks or other vehicles are needed. At the same time, the General stipulated that the "humanitarian corridor" from Dushanbe to Kulyab via the pass Chormagzak would have to be cleared of all illegal armed formations.

Karimov Stresses Need of Cooperation With Russia

OW2309114192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0955 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan Dzhamshed Karimov believes that the republic's economy might be simply "paralyzed" without cooperation with Russia and other CIS countries. In his exclusive interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] Karimov pointed out that a conclusion of a Tajik-Russian treaty on friendship and cooperation failed due to the aggravation of situation in Tajikistan in early September but it "will take place under any conditions".

Karimov stressed that the process of market structures formation in Tajikistan is going on harder than in other CIS states. According to Karimov, this is caused by an unequal starting positions, specific orientation of the republic's economy, which is predominantly related with natural resources, dead end situation in the transport system, serious deficit in state budget. The deputy prime minister noted that Tajikistan is vitally interested in concluding an agreement, first of all, with Russian Federation.

Uzbekistan

Country Joins IMF, World Bank Organization

LD2209125792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0552 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Matyash and Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington September 22 TASS—Uzbekistan joined the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WBRD) on Monday [21 September].

Uzbekistan is the 171th member-state of the WBRD, a leading financial organisation of the World Bank which grants credits and loans to its member-states with the aim of financing their economic projects. Uzbekistan is to make its contribution to the WBRD at the amount of 12.1 million U.S. dollars.

Uzbekistan applied for WBRD membership on February 21, 1992. Uzbekistan is the 13th former Soviet republic to become a member-state of this largest international organisation.

Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Latvia, Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan are already members of the WBRD.

Turkmenistan and Tajikistan have applied for the WBRD membership, but have not been admitted yet.

On the same day Uzbekistan joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Uzbekistan's initial quota in the IMF was established at the amount of 140 million dollars. Currently, the IMF has 171 member-states.

Chinese Goods Escape Price Increases

OW2109194192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An average price increase of between 20 and 30 per cent for all goods sold in commercial shops in Uzbekistan has been reported during the last month. For example, mens shoes cost from 2,000-4,000 rubles, ladies from 1,500-2,000 rubles, trousers from 2,000-3,000 rubles, light anoraks from 5,000-7,000 rubles.

Goods from China have escaped the increases, especially sports shoes, prices for which fell by 10-15 per cent. This is connected with the saturation of the local market by Chinese goods.

Results of Antidrug Operation Summarized

PM2109143392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 92 p 4

[Andrey Alyabyev report under the "At End of Issue" rubric: "Black Poppy-92"]

[Text] Approximately 300 "runners," as carriers of drugs are called, were arrested in Uzbekistan this spring and summer in the course of operation Black Poppy.

Two quintals of narcotics were taken out of criminal circulation. In addition, during the operation wild hemp was destroyed on 24 hectares in various parts of Uzbekistan. Employees of local law-enforcement organs and of a special subdivision of the Internal Ministry brought to light and destroyed these natural plantations of narcotic raw materials.

In accordance with the law, administrative proceedings have been instituted against approximately 300 farm leaders who did not take timely measures to destroy harmful undergrowth.

Karimov Receives Spanish Ambassador

OW2209225192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Spanish Ambassador to Russia Eugenio Bregolat y Obiols, appointed to serve jointly as Ambassador to Uzbekistan, presented his credentials to President Islam Karimov Tuesday [22 September].

In consequent talks they noted with delight that they were resuming diplomatic relations between Madrid and Samarkand which had existed in the 13th and 14th centuries. Spanish Ambassador Luis Gonzales Klavikho [name as received] had left behind a brilliant biography of a famous leader of that time, Timure the Great.

Armenia

Defense Official Claims Lachin Corridor Open

LD2209202292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent D. Pisarenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Despite the claims from Azerbaijani sources that the Lachin corridor has been blocked and that 15 villages have been captured, the Nagorno-Karabakh republic self-defense forces marked the anniversary of Armenian independence with the confident control of the humanitarian corridor. [video shows a hill with the word "Lachin" standing on it in large characters; vehicles moving along a road; uniformed men checking documents; video cuts to show woman bus passenger speaking to camera].

[Woman] We left Stepanakert at 0730 today. We had a quiet ride, and now we are on the territory of Armenia. [video shows bus moving along a road; sign on windshield says "Yerevan"].

We asked Ioan Sharkhonyan, deputy defense minister of the Republic of Armenia, to comment on the situation.

[Sharkonyan] I must say the corridor is continuing to function normally and that the Karabakh self-defense forces have begun operations to knock out all gun emplacements in the direction of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon.

Yerevan Calls Azerbaijan Ultimatum 'Propaganda'

OW2209201592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's ultimatum that Armenia withdraw its troop from Karabakh within 48 hours was taken in Yerevan as a standard propaganda move after which a large-scale offensive could be expected in Karabakh. "Apparently President Elchibey needs a way to report back to his electors", suggests the Chairman of the Armenian Parliament's Nagorno-Karabakh Commission, Sergey Bagdasaryan, "because he (Elchibey) promised that within the first 100 days of his presidency everything would be over in Karabakh. Azerbaijan is acting before the onset of winter because, realizing that fighting will be much more difficult during winter conditions, it will try to seize strategic objects in Karabakh and its surrounding areas."

Bagdasaryan also said there are no Armenian troops in Karabakh and there is nothing to withdraw from the region.

Azerbaijanis Resort to Air Raids in Karabakh

NC2209210892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] In the wake of major defeats in the last few days, the Azerbaijani leadership has resumed air raids on the settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh in order to sharply alter the course of events. As a followup to the 20 September air raids in which four civilians died and 19 were injured, the Azerbaijani MiG-21 military planes again dropped scores of cluster bombs on the residential districts of Stepanakert at 1130 on 22 September. Casualty figures are being determined.

The wreckage of Azerbaijani MiG-21 aircraft, which was shot down on 20 September, was found near Shosh.

(Hogortink) in Martuninskiy Rayon, and Akhbulakh in Gadrutskiy Rayon came under artillery and Grad rocket shelling on the night of 21-22 September. Two civilians were injured in Akhbulakh.

Large Azerbaijani Army detachments launched an attack on Edillu in Gadrutskiy Rayon in the early morning of 22 September. The Armenian self-defense detachments are putting up an effective resistance gains the enemy.

The battles are continuing near Gedavan in Mardakertskiy Rayon. The Armenian detachments are controlling the zone around Vaguas and Mardakert-Kelbadzhar road.

The Azerbaijani armed formations are trying to advance on Lachin humanitarian corridor from Kelbadzhar since the last night. As of 2200 today, the Azerbaijani attacks have been fully checked at a place 12-kilometer to the north of the humanitarian corridor. Nearly 30 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed. The Armenian side lost two freedom fighters killed and three injured.

Turkey Agrees To Fulfill Grain Request

NC2209203292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] As is already known, the Armenian Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan wrote a letter to the Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel requesting that Turkey loan grain to Armenia.

The Armenian republic press service reported that a reply letter from Suleyman Demirel was received on 21 September.

The reply letter states: Your excellency, allow me to thank you for your letter and for the good wishes extended to me personally and to my people. Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend my good wishes to the Armenian people. In reply to your inquiry, I am hereby informing you that in principle my government agrees to assist in supplementing the grain stocks. We are ready to receive a delegation from you to examine matters relating to grain transportation means, quantity, procedures and schedules.

I take the opportunity to note the importance we attach to the well-being and prosperity of the Caucasian peoples, and let me remind you of Turkey's traditional approach on the provision of humanitarian assistance. It is our sincere desire to see the neighboring region as an island of harmony, stability, prosperity and cooperation.

I can assure you that Turkey will pursue its constructive activity in this field.

Mr. Prime Minister, availing myself of this opportunity I express my deepest respects.

Azerbaijan

Cease-Fire Begins on Nakhichevan-Armenia Border

NC2209201492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The agreement for the imposition of a three-day cease-fire on the border between the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] and Armenia came into effect at 1400 today. The Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives agreed on the imposition of a cease-fire agreement between the NAR and Armenia in the talks they held in Sadarak Rayon.

The Azerbaijani side called for the withdrawal of the Armenians from the strategically important heights in Sadarak Rayon. The representatives agreed to consider the question of joint patrols in the strategic area. The sides also agreed to end the hostilities between Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy and Kubatlinskiy Rayons and Armenia's Megrinskiy and Kapanskiy Rayons. The representatives approved the question of the restoration of railway links between the two republics and the resumption of power supply to the NAR from Armenia. The experts will submit their final decisions to the meeting that will be held by the representatives of the two governments on 25 September. Dzhelilov, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, is heading the Azerbaijani delegation to the talks. Ara Saakyan, first deputy chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, is heading the Armenian delegation. The delegations are composed of the representatives of the power supply and railway administrations and the leading officials of the border rayons of the two republics.

Nakhichevan President Views Cease-Fire

TA2309153792 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1445 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Erzurum, Sept 23 (AA)—President Gaydar Aliyev of the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan said on Wednesday [23 September] that cease-fire talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia had been positive but that Nakhichevan does not trust the Armenians.

He was speaking a day after Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed on a two-month cease fire in their undeclared war that will come into force on Friday.

Aliyev told AA by telephone of fresh indications that Armenian militants are getting ready to renew attacks on Nakhichevan in the coming winter months despite a two-month moratorium agreement reached at a meeting of the Russian, Armenian, Azeri and Georgian defense ministers in the southern Russian resort of Sochi at the weekend.

He said Russian forces withdrawing from Nakhichevan had left behind arms and ammunition. "We are keeping these as a deterrent element but we do not want to use them," the president said. But he added that if attacks are renewed they will use the weapons.

Aliyev said shortages of coal and oil have already reached alarming levels and factories were not functioning because of lack of electricity.

Inflation and unemployment has also reached high levels and food shortages have led to widespread black-marketeering and soaring prices, he said.

Aliyev also called for cooperation with Turkish investors in order to revitalize factories.

Russian Border Troops Leave Nakhichevan

LD2209153692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 22 TASS—From September 21, 1992 the Russian border troops began to withdraw from the territory of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic (within Azerbaijan) to a new location in Dagestan (the North Caucasian republic within the Russian Federation). The re-disposition of border troops is carried out in accordance with the Russian Government's decision and in coordination with the Azeri side, a spokesman for the press center of the Russian border troops told ITAR-TASS today. The abandoned part of the frontier is handed over to troops of the Committee for Border Guards of the Azeri republic.

President Issues Decree on Call-Up 21 Sep

NC2309075192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 21 Sep 92

["Text" of decree issued by President Abulfaz Elchibey in Baku on 21 September]

To strengthen the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and other legal units in line with the law on the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and that on the main principles of the call-up to military service, I have decided that:

1. Citizens born between 1966 and 1974, those who will be 18 by the call-up for military service in October and who [words indistinct] from serving in the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and other legal units, be called up for active military service from October to November 1992. Citizens who will be 18, but who will be unfit for active military service, should be called up to join alternative services.

2. The Azerbaijan Council of Ministers take the required legal measures to put this decree into effect.

[Signed] Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey

[Dated] 21 September 1992, Baku

National Assembly Session Opens in Baku

NC2209165792 Baku TURAN in English 1207 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 22 Sep (TURAN)—After the three-week parliamentary vacations, National Assembly of Azerbaijan has opened his session in Baku today.

It is the question of the Azerbaijani participation in the CIS that has become one of the main items on the agenda of the National Assembly.

First vice-premier Vakhid Akhmedov said to the TURAN correspondent: Azerbaijan boosts for bilateral relations with states but in a case of need, may participate in the commonwealth as an observer. [sentence as received]

Touching upon the offer of the president N. Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to set up central bodies of the CIS, V. Akhmedov stressed that Azerbaijan had firstly to determine his relations with the CIS and only then might express his view on the subject.

As for creation of the co-ordinating centre of the CIS, that is the competence of the member states and only they will decide whether they need administrative bodies, said Akhmedov.

Iran To Help Nakhichevan With Trade, Ventures

NC2209151592 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1511 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 18 Sep (ASSA-IRADA)—This is the leading idea of all agreements on cooperation signed by Geydar Aliyev during his recent (August 22-26) visit to Iran at the head of the NAR [Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic] delegation. The agreement concerns the matters of barest necessity: Bread, fuel, sugar Nakhichevanians will receive through the Dzhulfa border post more than 200 thousand tons of cola, black oil, petrol, flour, potatoes, oil, onions, macaroni foods. Electric power and gas will be provided in October. The road and rail road connection are being constructed rapidly for transporting cargo and passengers from Baku to Nakhichevan on the Iranian territory. The agreement also includes spanning the river of Araks with bridges for communication of the relatives living on the opposite banks. The sides agreed on the soonest apportionment of accomodations for Iranian general consulate, trading representations, companies and joint ventures. As the autonomous republic was proclaimed a free-economic zone the trading rules will be softened. The agreement also concerns the liberization and simplifiction of customs policy, abolition of all interdictions. Iran will build up a brick-manufacturing plant, provide technology for producing non-alcoholic nushaba drink, fuit juice and henna. Air flights Nakhichevan-Mashhad will bring Nakhichevanian believers to the greatest religious center of Muslims. The exchange of TV programs, students, broadening of the relations in the field of science, culture, tourism, publishing, sports were also mentioned in the agreement. The Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan Ali Asgar Nekhavandian made a positive statement about thorough and urgent aid to Azerbaijan when accepted by the deputy chairman of the parliament of Azerbaijan republic who's leadership is very uneasy by the tense situation in NAR.

Baku 'Concerned' About Economic Ties With Turkey

NC2209043792 Baku TURAN in English 1028 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Baku 21 Sep (TURAN)—Azeri Government is deeply concerned about the state of economic links among Azerbaijan and Turkey.

It was outlined at the conference of the Azeri Cabinet of Ministers that the majority of the current joint ventures is busy not with manufacturing of the goods the Republic needs badly but with export from Azerbaijan and sale by spoiled prices in Turkey Azeri raw materials—oil, cotton and non-ferrous metals.

Press-secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers Fazil Mamedov said that to end the unchecked export of raw materials from Azerbaijan, it was taken a decision to set up a special body with a monopolistic raw material export right.

At the same time the conference expressed its appreciation of the activity of the Turkish firm "Goch", whose specialists are promising to produce the first car at the Gyandzha motor-car works in May of the next year.

Foreign Ministry Official Receives NATO Adviser

NC2209043592 Baku TURAN in English 1241 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, 19 Sep TURAN: Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Albert Salamov received the NATO special adviser for Eastern and Central European countries Chris Donelli today.

The representative of North Atlantic Treaty Organization arrived in Baku to assess the military-strategical situation in the region and discuss perspectives for co-operation between Azerbaijan and NATO.

C. Donelli declared in a course of the meeting if Azerbaijan would appeal to NATO, the organization might join in the political settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

C. Donelli is supposed to meet today with Chairman of the Azeri Parliament I. Gambarov to discuss the Azerbaijani perspectives for participation in NATO.

At present, it is Turkey that represents Azeri interests in NATO.

Estonia

Foreign Minister Reports Results of U.S. Visit

LD2209220492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Estonian Foreign Minister Jaan Manitski talked about his visit to the United States at today's news conference. Indrek Treufeldt went along to listen what he said and will now present it to you.

[Treufeldt] [passage omitted] During the two-day visit a meeting took place in Washington with acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger; with assistant to the Secretary of State Donner and the delegation headed by him; and with Congressman Lee Hamilton who is the foreign political adviser to Bill Clinton, a presidential candidate. According to Manitski, the attitude to the Estonian delegation was very warm. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Manitski summed up the reasons for his visit as follows:

[Begin Manitski recording] Estonian-U.S. relations are very important to us. [passage omitted] Recently, unfortunately, both European and several U.S. mass media have given preference to news, articles, and criticism which have been fairly negative toward us which we find [words indistinct] without any foundation, and it was very important to us to present our positions and facts on these issues. [end recording]

The Estonian demand that Russia should withdraw its military units from Tallinn by the end of the year, as well as the attack-oriented units from other regions in Estonia, was explained. The 144th Division and the Viljandi special unit were discussed. Lawrence Eagleburger promised that he will be able to demand a quick troop withdrawal during his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev within the next few days.

During the visit a basic Estonian-U.S. trade relations agreement was concluded. [passage omitted]

Distribution of Seats by Party in State Aseembly

OW2209191292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1728 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "BF" [BALTFAX] has received more precise data from the republican election commission (as of September 22 in the morning) on possible distribution of mandates between the election blocks and parties in the State Assembly of Estonia. The first column reflects the number of the votes received (in percents), the second column - a forecast general number of mandates with the compensation mandates:

"ISAMAA" ("Homeland")	21.6	29
"KINDEL KODU" ("Reliable house")	13.7	17
"POPULAR FRONT"	12.7	15
"MOODUKAD" ("Moderate")	9.8	12
PARTY OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE	8.3	10
"INDEPENDENT ROYALISTS"	7.1	8
"EESTI KODANIK" ("Citizen of Estonia")	6.9	8
"GREENS"	2.6	1
PARTY OF BUSINESSMEN	2.4	1
		TOTAL 101

The data presented are not considered to be final.

Government Holds Steady on Withdrawal Time Frame

LD2209182792 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1520 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Estonia still demands the Russian troops to be pulled out from its territory by the summer of 1993. The attack units, as well as all the troops stationed in the capital city Tallinn, are (?to be) withdrawn already by the end of 1992. The government delegations of Estonia and Russia have held six rounds of talks, reaching agreement in some minor issues. There has been no agreement so far over the matters of troop withdrawal, [word indistinct] or citizenship.

Shortage of Border Guards Affects Normal Service

LD2209182192 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1520 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] A shortage of border guards makes normal service on Estonian borders impossible. The director general of the Estonian Border Defense Department, Andrus Oovel, made this statement at a press conference yesterday. Mr. Oovel said that only 1,100 men are serving as border guards, instead of the necessary 3,048. There is also a shortage of technology. The Estonian border (?defense) started checking documents and issuing entry permits this January.

Russian frontier guards have completed their work on Estonia's western and northern borders. Estonian border guards have taken over (?18) frontier guard stations. An overwhelming majority of them need extensive repairs.

Government Intends to Build New Navy

PM2209192392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Estonia Wants to Restore Its Navy"]

[Text] Estonia intends to restore its Navy.

The Defense Ministry Press Service has announced that the first step on this path is to be the return to service of the submarine Lembit, built at a British shipyard more than 50

years ago. In recent years the veteran submarine has occupied a permanent mooring in Tallinn, where it housed a branch of the Baltic Fleet which has twice received the Order of the Red Banner.

Vahi Informs Kaitseliit of Commander Appointments

OW2209224992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1727 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tuesday [22 September] the Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi received the commanders of detachments of a volunteer defense organization "Kaitseliit" and informed them about appointment of 15 commanders of the detachments. The commanders thanked the Premier and presented him with the supreme award of their organization - an Order of White Cross.

Vahi Meets British Envoy on Trade, Economic Ties

OW2109210892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1854 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Prime Minister, Tiit Vahi, received Monday [21 September] the British Ambassador to the Estonian republic, Mr Brian Low, to discuss with him opportunities for promoting trade and economic relations between the two countries.

On behalf of his government, Brian Low assured the Estonian government that Great Britain is prepared to conclude with Estonia privileged economic agreements and accord it the status of most favored nation in trade. A spokesman for the Estonian government reveals that the parties have reached the agreements to initiate their work at the texts of these documents.

Latvia

Taiwan To Help Finance Power Plant Construction

LD2209212992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The government and businessmen in the Republic of China are ready to financially assist Latvia in the construction of a power station. This was reported by Council of Ministers Chairman Ivars Godmanis after his return from Taiwan. The main task is to get Taiwan to agree to finance one-half of the sum required for the construction of a new coal fuelled power station. Agreement was also reached that Taiwan, together with Sweden, will help Latvia to modernize the already existing hydroelectric power stations.

An agreement between Latvia and the Republic of China for the protection of mutual investments was also signed in Taiwan. Without the signing of such an agreement it would be difficult to expect any investments from the Taiwanese side, Ivars Godmanis reported. This agreement gives Latvian entrepreneurs guarantees for trade with Taiwan, in which Taiwan is very interested. It is mainly interested in the possibility of getting our timber and cement.

The official results of the visit will be summed up within the next few days, but already at today's government session the question of how to make more effective use of the contacts established in Taiwan was discussed.

Ivars Godmanis is holding a news conference at the Council of Ministers at this time.

Meeting Held on Troop Units Awaiting Withdrawal

OW2209132492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1010 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Government and customs officers had one of their routine meetings yesterday with commanding officers from the North-Western Armed Forces Group.

Supreme Council deputy Juris Dobelis, who took part in it, told BF [BALTFAX] that the meeting considered a list of units to be withdrawn this year.

The next meeting is to be held in a fortnight and will deal with military units not included in the above-mentioned list.

Latvian Media Reports on Fleet's Future Denied

PM2309150592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Sep 92 p 3

[Report by Captain Second Rank Valeriy Gromak under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Russian Ships Not Yet Taking Leave of Latvia, Although There Has Been Rumor of This"]

[Text] Baltic Fleet—Last week the Latvian press repeatedly carried a report of "an agreement reached between the commander of the Baltic Fleet and the Latvian side on the transfer of two military plants to Latvia's jurisdiction," as well as "Admiral V. Yegorov's consent to withdraw the fleet's forces from Latvia before the end of 1993." The Kaliningrad Oblast newspaper YANTARNYY KRAY also carried information on this. The report "Baltic Fleet Will Take Its Leave of Latvia" states that "the commander of the Baltic Fleet.... declared at a meeting with Lettish military men" that he is ready to transfer two military plants to Latvia's jurisdiction and to withdraw the Baltic Fleet's forces from there before the end of next year.

As you will understand, there was mild panic in Riga and Liepaja Naval Garrisons. However, I have been informed at the Baltic Fleet Press Center that this information does not tally with reality. The only truth is that Adm. V. Yegorov was in Riga 8 September and had a meeting with a number of officials, in particular with I. Upmalis, chairman of the bureau to monitor the troop withdrawal from Latvia. Only questions of the procedure for the transfer to the Latvian side of the fleet's military installations constructed before 1940 were discussed at the meeting. An accord was reached on this. Questions of the transfer of military plants and also of the troop withdrawal deadlines were not discussed at the meeting, as this does not come within the competence of the Baltic Fleet Command.

Poland's Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1909200192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Today, Andrejs Krastins, the deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, received Janusz Onyszkiewicz, the defense minister of the Polish Republic.

In the talks, in which representatives of the Defense and Internal Affairs Commission and the Polish Defense Ministry took part, there was a discussion of the possibilities and perspectives for the two countries' military cooperation.

For example, the Polish side is interested in the use of those Latvian enterprises, which previously fulfilled the orders of the former USSR military-industrial complex. In turn, Latvia wishes to send representatives of the country's defense forces to Polish military colleges.

New Passport Rules Introduced

AU2209115392 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 18 Sep 92 p 11

[Commentary by Oleksandr Cherevchenko: "No Passage Without Signing In or Out"]

[Text] **From 1 September, a special stamp will be placed in passports of former USSR citizens upon arrival in Latvia to enable their holders to stay there for 90 days. Special marks are also made prior to leaving the republic.**

If the rules for staying in the country are violated, a special entry will be made in the passport forbidding the holder of the passport to enter Latvia for a period of three years. The passports of residents of Baltic states will not be marked. This procedure has been introduced by the decision adopted by the Council of Ministers of Latvia, and it will be adhered to at border posts, in airports, at sea and railroad stations, and at land control posts.

At present, holders of Latvian passports do not need visas to go to Britain, Poland, or Hungary.

Government Honors Pre-1991 Savings Deposits

OW2009172692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1521 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvia's government has decided to honour the deposits made by local residents in savings' banks before 1991, the government's press secretary Mintauts Ducmanis told BF's [BALTFAX] correspondent. According to him, the deposits will be paid with state loan bonds. During the settlements the ratio of inflation will be taken into account.

The 1982 USSR state loan bonds will be honoured in the same way.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Denounces Russian Conservatives' Moves

LD2209221392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Chairman of the Supreme Council of Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis, who currently is on a visit in Belgium, made a statement today related to Russia's conservative forces' intention to raise tensions in the relations between Russia and Lithuania.

Today Lithuania's representative in Moscow has been informed that Russia's Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs will hand in a proposal to cancel the agreement on Russian Army withdrawal that was signed between Russia and Lithuania [words indistinct]. So, instead of signing the remaining documents it is being proposed to destroy what has already been achieved in the relations between Russia and Lithuania.

And this is being done by representatives of imperial thinking who aim at raising tensions. In his statement Vytautas Landsbergis expresses his disbelief that these conservative forces would be able to discredit the new democratic Russia's policy by canceling the already signed agreement.

Vytautas Landsbergis finishes his statement saying that all who currently are considering assistance programs for Russia will certainly follow the events so that they knew [as heard] what country they are going to provide with their assistance.

Hunt for Former KGB Agents Gains Momentum

LD2209211192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1956 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius September 22 TASS—The hunt of former KGB agents is gaining in scope as the elections to the Sejm, the new Lithuanian parliament, are approaching. The poll is due on October 25. The confrontation between the supporters and opponents of this campaign is simultaneously growing.

Tuesday's [22 September] plenary session of the supreme soviet has also confirmed this fact. Although 16 items were put on the agenda during its preliminary discussion, individual deputies proposed that new issues be added to it and the check of the mandates of some parliament deputies be also discussed.

Specifically, this concerns Lithuania's Democratic Party of Labour Chairman Vladimir Berezov and ex-Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene, who according to the Lithuanian Supreme Court's verdict, "deliberately collaborated with the KGB".

As was expected, heated emotional debates broke out, as a result of which the issue was put on the agenda.

Items linked with problems of the KGB were not exhausted during this discussion. The parliamentary centrist group proposed to consider putting forward a no-confidence motion against Balis Gajauskas, chairman of the interim parliamentary commission to investigate the KGB's activity in Lithuania.

Some deputies believe that the commission headed by him works "tendentiously and uses the documents that are available in the building of the former KGB for the struggle against its political opponents."

However, the proposal failed to gain the required majority of votes and it was decided to hear Gajauskas's report.

The hunt of former KGB agents is continuing: The state newspaper LETUVOS AIDAS today published an article by Povilas Varanauskas, a deputy of parliament and member of the parliamentary commission to investigate the KGB's activity in Lithuania. He called Jonas Kubiljus, the former rector of Vilnius University, mathematician of world renown, as a "KGB agent".

The editorial board admitted, however, that the material about academician Kubiljus's "collaborationism" was published only because his surname is on the list of candidates for Sejm deputies from Lithuania's Democratic Party of Labour, the main opposition political party.

Further on KGB Hunt

OW2109153692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1441 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Member of the parliamentary commission set to investigate the KGB activities in Lithuania, Mr Povilas Varanuskas, said that this week the republic's Supreme Court will address the materials regarding four more deputies suspected of collaboration with the KGB.

In his appearance over the national radio, Mr Varnauskas said that the persons mentioned in the state security documents under the alias of "Voke", "Petras", "Antanaitis" belong to the parliament's left and "Jurgis" to the right wing.

According to the earlier revelations by Mr Varnauskas in the "Lietuvas Aidas" daily paper, the aliases of the members of the parliament's left wing belong, respectively, to the outstanding economists Eduardas Vilkas, Kestutis Glaveckas, as well as the current deputy of the parliament speaker, one of the leaders of the Lithuanian Party of Labor, Ceslovas Jursenas. The alias "Jurgis" seems to conceal the deputy chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Bronislavas Kuzmickas, Ph.D, who prior to his political career had been involved with scholar research.

Government Decides To Secede From Ruble Zone

LD2309015992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2053 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius September 23 TASS—Lithuania said on Tuesday [22 September] it will secede from the rouble zone.

"Lithuania will not remain in the rouble zone," Lithuanian television quoted Lithuanian Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala as saying.

Abisala said the "government is doing its best to introduce the lit as soon as possible." However, he refused to say whether the new currency will be introduced in the republic before parliamentary elections scheduled for September 25.

Government Liberalizes Import-Export Rules

OW2209002392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1903 GMT 21 Sep 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania has set a new procedure for importing and exporting goods. As of September 16th, the BALTFAX agency reports, enterprises, including foreign ones, which import goods bought for hard currency to the republic shall pay a special 10% general excise tax on the value of such goods. Goods ear-marked for production needs and not for re-sale, including petroleum products, medicines, disposable syringes and medical technology may be imported free of excise taxes.

Goods acquired for rubles in states in the ruble zone shall also not be subject to excise tax.

Private enterprises shall not pay excise when selling their own goods to countries where accounts are kept in a hard convertible currency. If state enterprises export such products, however, they shall turn over 10% in excise taxes of the hard currency sale price to the Lithuanian Currency Fund.

Re-exports are not taxable.

Cabinet Meeting Discusses Increase in Crime Rate

OW2209134492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1011 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Some 34,000 crimes, including 3,500 grave ones, were registered in Lithuania during the first eight months of the year, ie 50% [percent] more than during the same period last year. The figure is expected to reach 52,000 by the end of the year.

These statistics were given at a cabinet meeting held in the Interior Ministry yesterday.

The grave crimes are apparently the easiest to track down. Thus, 83% of cases of murder, 82% of cases of assault involving heavy injuries and 71% of cases of rape have been cleared up.

The cabinet admitted the existence of organised crime in Lithuania. Interior Minister Petras Valiukas said effective measures to combat it are still possible but later on the work will be increasingly difficult.

The cabinet decided to draft legislation on organised crime shortly.

Landsbergis Recieves U.S. NATO Admiral

LD1909175392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1844 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius September 18 TASS—U.S. representative to NATO Admiral William Smith arrived here today.

The high guest was given an official dinner attended by Lithuanian Parliament Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis. Smith has also met Lithuanian Land Protection Minister Audrjus Butkjavicjus.

In the afternoon the admiral left for the Klaipeda port, where eight NATO warships for the first time came on an unofficial visit on Thursday [17 September].

These events are another proof to the fact the current Lithuanian government wishes to see NATO as the guarantor of the republican security and tries to consolidate its contacts with the military bloc.

Several months ago NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner came on visit to Vilnius.

NATO Warships Arrive in Klaipeda 17 Sep

WS2109130192 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1310 GMT 18 Sep 92

[From ELTA "News Bulletin" No. 82]

[Text] 18 September 1992—On September 17 eight NATO warships including battleships of Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Holland arrived on their maiden visit at the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda. At the official ceremony of welcome the navy unit commander Tim I.Hildesley was greeted by Vice Chairman of the Supreme Council Ceslovas Stankevicius, ministers, representatives of local government, diplomats of foreign countries embassies in Lithuania.

"We are very happy to come to Klaipeda just after the signing of the agreement on the Russian armed forces' pullout from the territory of Lithuania", Commander Tim I. Hildesley said. "Therefore our visit can be regarded as an historical event. We hope inhabitants of Klaipeda will gladly visit our ships and make good friends with our sailors".

In the Klaipeda Commandant's Headquarters, the Commander of the NATO navy unit was received by the Minister of National Defence of Lithuania Audrius Butkevicius.

The NATO warships' visit will last four days. Then they will set out for Helsinki and from there to Riga.

Coalition for Democracy Adopts Declaration

WS2309130492 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1512 GMT 21 Sep 92

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 83]

[Text] 21 September 1992—Declaration of the coalition "For Democracy in Lithuania" was adopted on Saturday, September 19, and signed by leaders of the Lithuanian Workers' Union, the Lithuanian Political Prisoners and Exiles' Union, the Lithuanian Green Party, the Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party, the Lithuanian Reform Movement Sajudis, the Farmers' Sajudis, Citizens' Charter and the Lithuanian Nationalist Union. The Declaration states that these political forces will unite their efforts in the electoral campaign striving to secure and strengthen independence, democracy and justice. The Declaration asks and answers questions as to what the Reform Movement Sajudis has so far managed and failed to do.

Sajudis has roused the people for the decisive and successful struggle for the independence of Lithuania. The aim has been achieved by peaceful political means without deadly uprisings and armed clashes in spite of the numerous provocations by the authorities of the ex-USSR Communist Party and the secret forces of the KGB. Sajudis has won the international recognition and authority for Lithuania.

Sajudis has initiated the reforms aimed at creating a free, open and just society cherishing family and work and building the foundations of concord and welfare.

Sajudis rallied for the cause of Lithuania people of diverse convictions, not rejecting the Communists either thus bringing about sincere redemption in some of them and perfidy and revenge-seeking in others.

Sajudis has lead the way to the restoration of the institutions of free market economy, private property and legitimate owners of the land and business.

However, Sajudis did not manage to win the elections to the selfgovernments of local districts and failed to exert its influence on them so that the reforms could be carried on smoothly and justly and that the common wealth of the people of Lithuania would not be plundered.

Sajudis has not so far managed to bring into being an all-embracing new system of justice, law and order secured by judges and prosecutors free from the influence of the corrupt old institutions.

Sajudis has not yet given rise to a new kind of officials, diligent, dealing with respect with people and devoted to the national revival.

After the restoration of independence Sajudis did not manage to carry on its daily steady fight against the Soviet relicts in society and state institutions, against the influence and power of the former communist party secretaries and their attempts to reverse the course of the events.

Yet Sajudis has never subjected to doubt the ideals of freedom and democracy, it has never given in to numerous attempts to break it down, to slander it and to accuse it of all kinds of fictitious inventions.

Sajudis will keep on rallying common people and democratic political forces to the end of the accomplishment of the Social, political, economical and spiritual desovietization, the complete pullout of the foreign troops.

Sajudis will also direct its efforts that the balance of the economic ties with the East and the West is achieved, that the security of people and their property is ensured, and that no prescription is applied to plunderers of the wealth of the Lithuanian enterprises.

Sajudis will not be telling lies and promising an easy way to welfare, on the contrary it will always let people know the whole truth about the unavoidable difficulties of the transitional period and about our own vices aggravating the situation still further.

Sajudis will not only resist the desperate attempts of the henchmen and apologists of the defunct regime to regain their power, it will also strive to put an end to their dominion over mass media and local self-governments, it will do its best to strengthen the antipodal democratic forces which would enable people to choose officials and mass media of a different kind.

Sajudis will hold on pursuing the policy of laying the foundations of high morality, responsibility and Western-style democracy.